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Daily Report

Latin America

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Daily Report

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UN Envoy Named for Venezuela-Guyana Dispute

FL0202145090 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1130 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has named (Alistair MacIntyre) as his personal envoy and has assigned him the task of trying to settle a border dispute between Venezuela and Guyana. The dispute centers around the mineral-rich Essequibo region, which was awarded to Britain by an international tribunal in 1899. The region comprises about five-eighths of Britain's former colony in Guyana. Venezuela disputes the award, and after years of disagreement on how to settle it, the two countries have agreed to mediation.

SELA Criticizes Raid on Company in Panama

PA0102193790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0054 GMT
31 Jan 90

[Text] Caracas, 30 Jan (AFP)—The Latin American Economic System (SELA) reported today in Caracas that U.S. military forces and Panamanian authorities raided Multifert, a multinational fertilizer company, on 29 Jan.

Multifert was created within SELA in November 1979 to market Bolivian, Costa Rican, Cuban, Mexican, Nicaraguan, Peruvian, and Venezuelan fertilizers and their raw materials.

SELA's permanent secretariat, which is headed by a Uruguayan, Carlos Perez del Castillo, said that the Latin American company's files and desks were searched in the Panamanian capital.

This was done after the U.S. troops raided the Nicaraguan ambassador's residence and harassed the Cuban and Peruvian Embassies, the spokesman added.

The organization demanded information from the Panamanian Government on this incident, stressing its concern "for the consequences that it could have on the normal development of activities of this important regional cooperation initiative."

SELA is the largest regional economic integration organization, with headquarters in Caracas; 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries are members of the organization.

Roundup on Regional Drug Seizures, Arrests

PA0602031790

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports on drug seizures and arrests related to drug trafficking in the bureau coverage area from 18 January to 2 February. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

Colombia

Coca Plants Destroyed—Colombian Army troops have destroyed 20,000 coca plants found in the northwestern township of Vegachi, according to official reports. Also,

units of the police elite corps seized an arsenal of arms and ammunition, apparently owned by the drug mafia, during an operation in the Caribbean city of Barranquilla. [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Jan 90]

January Cocaine Seizures—Colombian authorities have seized 1,890 kg of cocaine during the month of January, according to antinarcotics police, who said the operations were carried out in Vichada and Meta in eastern Colombia. Also, 48,375 kg of pressed marijuana were seized in the northern departments of Cesar, Magdalena, and Bolivar. [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1806 GMT 1 Feb 90]

Cocaine Paste Seized—More than 400 kg of seized cocaine paste from Peru and a destroyed clandestine landing strip were the result of two operations staged by the national police in a rural sector of the Amazon region, according to Police Commander Luis Alberto Rojas. The operations took place in the municipality of Puerto Narino, but no arrests were made. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 90]

Marijuana, Cocaine Paste Seized—Four drug centers were dismantled and more than one kg of cocaine and approximately half a ton of cocaine paste were seized as the result of a police operation carried out in the eastern part of the country. The police said the operation had been under way since last week in the departments of Meta, Vichada, and other parts of the country. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jan 90]

Costa Rica

Cocaine Smugglers Arrested—Costa Rican authorities arrested two Colombians and two Panamanians found with 33 kg of cocaine. The Panamanians, Rogelio Gonzalez Martinez and Luis Mariano Herrera Espinoza, had placed the drug in a spare tire of the vehicle they were driving across Paso Canoas on the border. They were arrested with Colombians Augusto Salom Salom and Miguel Antonio Rangel Quintero, whom they contacted on their arrival in San Jose. [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1843 GMT 18 Jan 90]

Police Seize Drugs—Costa Rican Police reported that in 1989, illegal drugs estimated at \$55.5 million were seized. During the second part of the year the police seized 510 kg of cocaine, the largest cocaine haul in the country. In 1989 730 drug traffickers were arrested, including dozens of foreigners. The police also announced the confiscation of \$13,597 worth of counterfeit currency, a light aircraft, 15 vehicles, 46 firearms, and other items used to process drugs. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1608 GMT 2 Feb 90]

Guatemala

Cocaine Seizure—Miguel Zenon, director of the treasury police, reported that 25 pounds and 15 ounces of cocaine were seized in Puerto Barrios from the following drug traffickers: Nicaraguans Derik Bracket Omeir and Naldran Branford Chow, British Guyanese Johan Sing

Soa, and Guatemalan Henry Row. [Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 20 Jan 90 p 6]

Honduras

Drug Traffickers' Arrest—The Tegucigalpa Police yesterday presented three persons who had brought 84 pounds of cocaine from Colombia through the Toncontin Airport. The drugs, estimated to be worth two million lempiras, were seized in Puerto Cortes from Jose Luis de Leon Ascencion; Rigoberto Cacho Reyes, alias "Motagua"; and Carlos Javier Delgado Fiallos. Captain Cesar Augusto Somoza, spokesman for the Public Security Force, explained that the Honduran police were tipped off by the Drug Enforcement Administration, which works in the country. [San Pedro Sula in Spanish 23 Jan 90 p 15]

Mexico

Traffickers Arrested; Arsenal Seized—Mexican Police arrested a band of 12 drug traffickers in the state of Sinaloa in northwestern Mexico and seized an arsenal including grenade launchers and machine guns. According to the Attorney General's Office, those arrested planned to use 104 AK-47 machine guns, an undetermined number of grenade launchers, fuses, bayonets, knives, and rifles against antidrug police installations. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0648 GMT 1 Feb 90]

Marijuana Traffickers Arrested—Mexican police arrested members of a band of drug traffickers who were smuggling marijuana into the United States. Those arrested were found with two tons of marijuana, 12 grams of cocaine paste, expensive jewelry valued at \$300,000, two houses, a ranch, 200 head of cattle, weapons, and vehicles, according to a police source. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0958 GMT 31 Jan 90]

Marijuana Seized; Nine Arrested—Mexican antinarcotics police seized five tons of marijuana and arrested nine persons during several operations carried out in Chihuahua and Tamaulipas, it has been reported. The drugs were found in the tires of a truck in the state of Oaxaca and inside a trailer in Chihuahua. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0713 GMT 31 Jan 90]

Marijuana Seizures—Federal Judicial Police [PJF] agents seized approximately two tons of marijuana and arrested eight drug traffickers during several operations in the state of Sonora. The PJF agents arrested Joaquin Zelaya Franco, who was found with four kg of marijuana. Ramon Guerrero, Roberto Lopez Cardona, and

Hector Saavedra, who were found with 125 kg of marijuana, were arrested in a home on the U.S. border. The PJF agents arrested Jorge Ariel Oberto, Daniel Montijo, and Hector Carrasco, who were found near the U.S. Customs checkpoint with 112 kg of marijuana. In the Lazaro Cardenas Municipality in the State of Chihuahua, antinarcotic agents downed an aircraft carrying 400 kg of marijuana. The persons who were in the aircraft managed to escape. [Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Jan 90]

Marijuana Traffickers Arrested—Members of the PJF confiscated three tons of marijuana at a checkpoint in Ciudad Juarez in Chihuahua. Two drug traffickers identified as Rigoberto Sanchez Melendez, 41, and Carlos Payan, 52, were arrested. Antinarcotics police in Chihuahua seized two tons of marijuana during diverse operations. In the State of Tamaulipas, PJF agents staged an antinarcotics operation and captured a band of traffickers. The PJF agents confiscated weapons, homes, and vehicles from them. The PJF has continued investigations to find all those persons involved with the cocaine traffickers' band, which was captured during simultaneous operations in Ciudad Victoria, Matamoros, and Tamaulipas last week. Thus far, 11 persons have been arrested, including Salvadoran Walter Calderon, leader of the group, who is wanted in the United States by antinarcotics agents, and Fernando Canales, an official from the Autonomous University of Tamaulipas. During the operation, the PJF seized a large quantity of firearms, cartridges, radio communications equipment, homes, a ranch, an aircraft, fuel, and cocaine. The Army and Air Force are conducting combined antidrug operations in various parts of the country. The police destroyed eight marijuana plantations and 879 poppy seed plants in Oaxaca. In Guerrero, following a clash with alleged drug traffickers, the police destroyed a marijuana plantation and seized firearms and uniforms. [Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Jan 90]

Venezuela

Cocaine Seizure—National Guardsmen seized approximately 13 kg of cocaine at the international airport in Maiquetia. General Guillen Davila, chief of intelligence of the antidrug division of the National Guard, stated that the package was given to the Customs Department to send to Italy, but on inspection was found to contain drugs. [Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 90]

Cuba

Government Requests UN Meeting on 'Hermann'

U.S. Responds

FL050223390 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 2051 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The U.S. Government has begun maneuvering to block a UN Security Council meeting requested by Cuba to analyze the U.S. armed attack on a Cuban merchant ship. In a letter sent to the UN secretary general, U.S. deputy representative James Wilkinson says the Security Council should not spend its valuable time examining the matter.

The U.S. permanent mission argued again that there were reasons to suspect that the merchant ship "Hermann" was carrying drugs or other contraband goods. This claim was later denied by Mexican authorities who inspected the ship after the incident. Washington insists that the Coast Guard vessel used its legitimate authority and that it was unexplainable that Cuba had ordered the crew to resist attempts to board the ship.

Sources linked to the U.S. mission to the United Nations have given assurances that the United States will veto any draft resolution submitted to the Security Council condemning the attack on the Cuban ship.

Consultations began today among Security Council non-aligned member countries to search for a common position and discuss a draft resolution that will be submitted for the consideration of the remaining members of the UN council.

The Security Council will hold a plenary meeting at 1600 to conduct a number of consultations regarding the matter, which our government terms as very threatening to international peace and security.

The text of the letter sent by Cuba to the UN Security Council says the United States takes upon itself the right to interfere in free navigation in international waters and harass, attempt to board, and attack peaceful merchant ships with the intention of sinking them.

Alarcon Speaks to Press

FL0602004690 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0002 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon said at the United Nations today that political provocation was the real reason for the U.S. attack on the Cuban merchant ship. Speaking to the press, the Cuban representative to the United Nations noted that if the Washington administration was truly interested in finding out whether the Cuban cargo ship was carrying drugs, it should have accepted the Cuban proposal made on 30 January so that the ship be inspected by Mexican authorities. He added that the Mexican Government accepted the Cuban request and inspected the ship twice, finding no drugs.

Ricardo Alarcon asked: What was the U.S. response to the Cuban proposal? He answered: It shot, machine-gunned, and attempted to board the vessel by force. He asked again: Was this this a show of how to exert pressure against drug trafficking, or a political provocation? Our ambassador to the UN explained that the attack on the Cuban vessel with the authorization of the U.S. Government was a defiance, because that ship and route between Mexico and Cuba are well known in the United States simply because of the economic blockade imposed on our country 30 years ago. They have a blacklist of all the companies that have relations with Cuba and another one containing the ships that cannot enter U.S. territory.

Alarcon said: No one could believe that a drug trafficker would use those ships or companies to transport drugs to the United States. Responding to a question regarding what our country expects from the UN Security Council, Alarcon responded that faced with the clear violation of international law by the United States, which endangers international peace and security, the Security Council should exercise its functions and duty; that is, it should condemn the violation, demand compensation for the damages inflicted on the Cuban ship, and assume a position that ensures free navigation and respect of international law, said our ambassador to the UN.

Hart Arrives in Venezuela on 24-Hour Visit

Condemns U.S. 'Aggression'

FL0502124890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] In Caracas, Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos condemned the United States' aggression against Latin America and the Caribbean, recalling that Cuba is on the borderline of that contradiction. [sentence as heard] Hart, who arrived in Venezuela on a 24-hour visit, said that the only alternative to this aggression is a strong and virile response, such as the one given by the Cuban people.

In statements made to PRENSA LATINA and a Venezuelan journalist, the Cuban culture minister criticized the recent Yankee attack against a merchant ship leased by Cuba. He said that this aggression followed the U.S. invasion of Panama and its attempt to place its naval forces in Colombian waters. Hart said that this not only affects Cuba, Panama, and Colombia, but all of Latin America and the Caribbean as well.

The Cuban leader will grant a news conference today and will also participate in a forum at Venezuela's Central University.

Criticizes Bush

FL0602035390 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 0302 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] U.S. President George Bush is implementing the same old holster policy in Latin America as the one used

by Spanish conquistadors, Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart said in the Venezuelan capital today. The Cuban leader, who arrived in Caracas for a 24-hour visit, gave a more than two-hour long news conference, which included cultural and political subjects regarding Latin America and other continents.

After describing Washington's policy as harmful to even the empire itself, Hart, who is also member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Politburo, warned that an attack on our country would be a great Yankee blunder. He explained that, first, such action would encounter heroic resistance by the Cuban people; second, it would not be successful; and third, it would provoke great anti-imperialist sentiments in Latin America.

Hart added that the main task of Latin American and Caribbean peoples is to analyze how to face U.S. imperialism and concrete situations, such as the foreign debt and cultural identity.

Regarding Cuba and the events in East Europe, the Cuban minister said mistakes have been made not by socialism, but in the practice of socialism in this century, and some of them were noted by our country at the appropriate time. The Cuban revolution has another history, another practice, and that history and practice link it to Latin America, the Caribbean, and this world, he said. We do not have to open an opening [as heard], first, because we have always been open to our world, Armando Hart reiterated.

Possibility of Multiple Parties in USSR Noted

FL0502223490 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2056 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev gave assurances today that the USSR's Communist Party is willing to struggle for its position of leadership without excluding the possibility of the appearance of other political organizations. Presenting the opening report during a CPSU Central Committee plenum which began today, Gorbachev said the current opening of society is being accompanied by a growing political pluralism that can lead to the creation of other parties at a certain point.

Within this framework, the Soviet leader added that the CPSU intends to struggle for its position of leadership strictly within the democratic process, without legal or political privileges, by defending its program and cooperating with other forces.

In this way, Gorbachev left open the legal possibility of multiple parties in the USSR within the framework of what he defined as quick changes. He added they are exceptional because of their scale and novelty, and require transformations in the CPSU.

Dominican Republic

New Secretary of State for Labor Appointed

FL0502170890 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] President Joaquin Balaguer has appointed Prim Pujals Nolasco as secretary of state for labor. The appointment was made in accordance with Decree No. 55, Article 120, published yesterday by the Press Department of the National Palace. Dr. Pujals Nolasco is replacing Dr. Rafael Emiliano Agramonte Polanco, who previously held the position. [passage omitted]

PRI Announces Candidate for 16 May Elections

FL0502172890 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Independent Revolutionary Party (PRI) has verified Jacobo Majluta's candidacy for the 16 May elections. Eight hundred delegates from throughout the country, at the suggestion of one of their colleagues, also bestowed Majluta with the power to choose the person who will be listed with him on the ballot as his vice presidential candidate.

Majluta made his proclamation during the first special PRI convention. In response to a request, the PRI government platform was also approved during the convention.

The National Executive Committee and the presidential candidate also received broad powers to form alliances with other parties if they wish.

Haiti

More Reaction to Avril News Conference Noted

FL0502185490 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Two days after General Avril's news conference at the National Palace, we continue to receive reaction and declarations of position from the political class. [passage omitted]

[Reporter Rothschild] The Delmas-based branch of the Movement for the Organization of the Country, MOP, thinks that Gen. Avril's news conference was a big farce. MOP Secretary General Emmanuel Beauvais says he is convinced the news conference added nothing new to the current political situation. Beauvais believes that the government's lifting of the state of siege is the direct consequence of the international pressures applied, and not the return to order that the general claimed in his press conference.

Furthermore, Beauvais considers the comparisons made by Gen. Avril between Haiti and France regarding police

brutality as scandalous. Beauvais reiterates that his party wants change. For him, there is no question of participating in elections under such a government.

[Begin Beauvais recording, in Creole] We are will not participate in elections under Gen. Avril because we now know what such elections will be like. [passage omitted]

The only new thing that came out of the conference is simply that Gen. Avril has confirmed his position: He is going to hold the phony elections that he wants to hold. That is all. But this is hardly positive! This is a statement that has become almost routine for the general. He did not say anything that could convince anyone. We are just as pessimistic as ever about this government, and we want a transition government that can ensure honest, unfettered, democratic elections and can guide the nation along the path of progress and civilization. [end recording]

[Rothschild] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] finds itself on the same wavelength as the MOP regarding Gen. Avril's press conference. Reverend Sylvio Claude, the president of the PDCH, thinks the chief of state did a lot of talking but said nothing. Rev. Claude, who is still in hiding, says he noted several faults in the statements made by President Avril during the news conference. Claude emphatically wishes to point out to Gen. Avril that contrary to what Avril said, political parties are indeed established in provincial towns. The absence of political party headquarters in provincial towns that Gen. Avril mentioned is the consequence of the policy of terror carried out by the current government, says Claude.

Claude flares up at the brutal attitude of the military toward the members of the opposition arrested recently, which the general termed slip-ups. He feels there can be no valid comparison between Haiti and foreign countries on this matter.

Claude declares: Here in Haiti, people arrested are tortured by the police, sometimes even in front of their commanding officers.

The PDCH's president thinks Wednesday's news conference has not restored confidence to the population.

[Begin Claude recording, in Creole] The general should not have talked, because instead of making things better, he has made them worse. First of all, he made threats. He is more menacing than ever. He said nothing concrete. He did not answer the questions the way he should have. I consider it a failure.

One thing he said was significant: that if the Haitian people didn't have time to learn to read and get a job so they could feed themselves, any election that would be held would be a hasty, fraudulent one. This means that the elections that are going to begin in April and end in October will be fraudulent, because he is not going to have time to feed the people and teach them to read.

He is already telling us, the Haitian people, that the elections that are going to be held are going to be fraudulent. Thus, there was nothing reassuring or convincing in the news conference. He cannot reassure anyone! [end recording]

[Rothschild] The PDCH remains convinced that Gen. Prosper Avril is a real obstacle to democracy in Haiti. To remove this obstacle, Sylvio Claude once again demands that the general-president step down.

Avril Tours Medical, Social Centers; Speaks

FL0502150090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in French 1600 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Yesterday morning the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, visited Cite Boston and Cite Soleil [two slum areas]. He was warmly welcomed by the population. President Avril, with Dr. Reginald Boulos, executive director for the Cite Soleil (?development centers), CDS [expansion not provided], as a guide, visited several medical and socio-professional centers in the area, among them the Saint Vincent Cultural Center in Boston, the Haitian-Arab Center, Saint Catherine's Hospital, and the Family Promotion Center of Cite Soleil.

President Avril laid the cornerstone of a marketplace that will soon be constructed on the square. Here, the president addressed the people, who told him their problems.

[Begin Avril recording, in Creole] People who love the Haitian people do not instigate insecurity so that when the government takes measures to rid this insecurity people will protest. [applause]

All the people around here—be they from Soleil 17 or 21, Cite Carton, or Boston—are good people. Haiti is in our hands and nobody can take it from us. [applause, cheers]

You may have noticed that the speech I made the day before yesterday was in French. I gave the interview, the news conference, in French because I knew very well that people (?were going to) speak on a number of things they did not like, and they protested. You had nothing to do with these things. You need measures that will ensure security, so that you can find jobs [applause and cheers]. I am (?not afraid to say) that this is what our priority is, because it is high time, after 186 years of independence, that we...[changes thought] Just look at the state we are in! [applause, cheers] I do not think that any imported magic formula is going to solve our problems. It is up to us to put our heads together to formulate a solution to our problems. [applause]

(?Today) I have come here (?to) make a little symbolic gesture. Every time I do this, instead of being happy, I am even more heartsick, because I think that more is needed around here than this little marketplace. Given the condition the Cite is in, given the condition that the masses living around here are in, I think that what they

[not further identified] should give us is massive aid, instead of sitting there pestering us and asking us to do what we cannot do. [applause, cheers, shouts of: "Bravo"]

The people of Haiti, the people of Cite Soleil, need people to understand them. They need people to stay with them so they can work to get the people out of the condition they are in, the way we have just seen. We just took a look at what Dr. Boulos is doing here. That is what you need. You need people to sit down with you to solve your problems, to set up schools for you, to give you the means to work, to increase electrical power, to put in drainage around here. You are sitting in the mud all day! [applause, shouts]

There should not be all these people needing potable water and unable to obtain it. [shouts] Thus, as you can see, I have just made a gesture. The building of the marketplace is going to begin right away! [cheers] Besides...[indistinct shouting] [Avril repeats] besides, (the ones you are familiar with), such as the foster parents plan and CDS, are setting up, and we are going to provide our own contribution [apour pa nou]. We have...[changes thought] Our money is already here, in cash. I will take it from everywhere else so we can begin immediately. [shouting and cheering]

Of course, as you know, naturally...[shouting and cheering] [repeats] Of course, as you know, naturally, there are many, many problems here. I know there are many, many problems. We are going to have the magistrate draw up a list of these problems so we can study them and solve them as soon as possible. [shouts of: "Bravo"] [applause] I was told about a canal—the (Varreux) canal. We are going to study these things so that we can solve them as well. [applause, shouting] [one man is heard shouting, in French: "Until death"]

Thus, as I was saying, I have made a number of speeches in French. But, this I saved, to come here myself, personally, to say to all the people of Cite Soleil and all around this area: Thank you very much for the way you behaved while I was on my trip to China, where I went to see what I could obtain for you. [shouts of "Bravo," cheering, applause] I am very pleased with the way they behaved. I am happy that they did not listen to anyone trying to come and turn the country topsy turvy. Because the problems of the masses cannot be solved through such vile politicking. [applause, cheering, shouting] [man heard shouting in Creole: "We knew you would come"]

When I was getting ready to go...[shouting] [changes thought] I am a person who believes in two things. I believe in God and I believe in what the Haitian people represent. [applause, shouting, cheering]

I believe in God. Therefore, when I left, I left with my mind at ease, because—and I am going to say something in French now, because that is how it is written in the Bible—what God is watching over is well watched over. [applause] That is why I said, yesterday, that when I left for China, I did not leave the Army out in the streets.

Because I know someone is minding the store. Another [words indistinct]: If God watches over our house, the sentry keeps vigil in vain. [applause] [end recording]

At the last stop of this visit, the Family Promotion Center, a reception was held by the center authorities. CSD executive director Dr. Reginald Boulos thanked the chief of state.

President Avril was accompanied on the tour by Rosemarie Nazon, minister of information, culture, and coordination; Colonel Christophe Dardompre, commanding officer of the Presidential Guard; Citizens Grievances Program director (Bogard Marseille); Delmas Mayor Mosene Beauvais; and other members of his government and of the Haitian Armed Forces.

Civilians Reportedly Ransack Union Leader's Home

FL0502193790 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpts] A group of civilians armed with heavy-caliber weapons showed up at the home of Naly Beauharnais, president of the Union Federation of Public Transportation Vehicle Drivers, [an affiliate of the CTH, or Confederation of Haitian Workers] at approximately 2300 Saturday on 3 February. Beauharnais lives on Waney 91 in Carrefour. The armed civilians ransacked the unionist's house after pulling him out of bed and throwing him on the floor. CTH Secretary General Jean-Claude Lebrun has said Mrs. Naly Beauharnais, who fled when the armed civilians appeared, received some blows as well. Her whereabouts are unknown. [passage omitted] [end recording]

We remind listeners that Naly Beauharnais was arrested by a group of armed civilians on 12 January. According to statements made to us yesterday by Jean-Claude Lebrun, Naly was badly beaten at the National Palace and at the Antigang Service when he was arrested. He was released on Wednesday, 31 January, without having gone to court. He is not in good physical condition at all.

Victim Identifies Officials Present at Beating

FL0502185790 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpts] More than 13 peasant members of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] were severely manhandled by the magistrate, the prefect, and the commanding officer of the military district of Thomazeau on 25 January at approximately 2200, according to (Diser- tin Armand), one of the victims.

According to PDCH member (Armand), who lives in Dalon near Thomazeau, they entered his house, arrested him, tied him up, and mistreated him. They also hit him with rifle butts, claiming to be looking for weapons that had been distributed in the area and for the head of the PDCH, who is in hiding. The victim says he saw with his

own eyes the magistrate, the prefect, and the commanding officer of the military district of Thomazeau among the people who arrested and mistreated him. [passage omitted]

According to this same victim, the person beaten most severely was a certain (Darilien), who is a member of the area's Administrative Council for the Communal Section. He also says there were approximately 40 people locked up in prison in Thomazeau during the state of siege. Several people were released on 31 January after appearing in court.

Jamaica

Manley Fires Minister of Industry and Commerce

FL0502145790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2127 GMT
3 Feb 90

[Report by Julie Chen]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 3 CANA—Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley on Saturday fired Minister of Industry and Commerce Claude Clarke in the wake of public confusion over whether or not basic food prices are to be increased. Finance Minister Mullings had told Parliament last week that as part of a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) package the prices of basic food would go up by an average of 19.5 percent to save J195 million dollars a year in subsidies. But speaking at a function on Thursday, Clarke gave the impression that prices would not be increased without his approval.

The GLEANER on Friday quoted the Retailers Association as saying that no basic food items will be increased until further communication from the minister. Clarke told the GLEANER that an attempt would be made to minimise the level of increases to come and that there would be no changes in prices until he was satisfied that everything had been done to achieve this.

In a statement Manley said the minister's remarks could have given the impression that "the principle of collective responsibility is not fully effective in the government." The prime minister said he had conducted a full investigation of the circumstances including extensive discussions with Clarke.

"Having heard taped excerpts of the speech which gave rise to the problem, I required him to make a public statement making it clear that he accepts the principle of collective responsibility without which no government can function. While giving me private assurances that he understands and accepts these principles he refused to make a public statement in a form that would satisfy me that this would be clear to the public. Therefore, I have decided to relieve Mr. Clarke of his ministerial responsibilities."

Minister of development, planning and production and deputy prime minister, P.J. Patterson has been appointed to oversee the ministry until a new minister has been announced.

Clarke Profiled

FL0502153190 Bridgetown CANA in English 2119 GMT
4 Feb 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 4, CANA—Claude Clarke, who was fired as Jamaica's minister of industry and commerce on Saturday, was one of the more high profile ministers in Prime Minister Michael Manley's cabinet.

Well-known in Caribbean business circles, Clarke was a former president of the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) and major shareholder in the successful chocolate manufacturing company, Highgate Food Products. Clarke took over Highgate in the 1970's when the British company, Cadbury, pulled out of Jamaica.

Clarke entered the political arena in time for the 1989 general elections winning his west rural St. Andrew seat by a slim majority. The suave and sometimes flamboyant businessman was a natural choice for the high profile post of minister of industry and commerce. Faced in difficult economic times with the awesome responsibility of balancing the interests of the consumer with that of the productive sector, Clarke began his ministerial career with a bang with the much touted motor vehicle policy.

The policy when announced gave the impression that Jamaicans would be able to import motor vehicles into the island using no-funds licences. Within days, consumers were informed that this was not the case. In August, Clarke was at the centre of a public quarrel with Donald Panton, one of the island's largest car dealers over contributions to Clarke's election campaign. During this incident there were press reports that a 250,000 Jamaican dollar contract had been put out for Clarke's execution.

In recent months, "the chocolate kid" as he was dubbed by some members of the local press has kept a low profile, until his latest prices squabble with the government. Finance Minister Mullings had told Parliament that as part of a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) package the prices of basic food would go up by an average of 19.5 percent to save J 195 million dollars a year in subsidies. But Clarke subsequently gave the impression that prices would not be increased without his approval. In a statement explaining why he fired Clarke, Manley said the minister's remarks could have given the impression that "the principle of collective responsibility is not fully effective in the government."

Clarke has often said that he entered politics because he believed that he could make a contribution to national development. "Let me make my stand clear, if politics is about expediency, if politics is about being hostage to certain sectional interests, if politics means mere survival or the pre-occupation with one's political career, then I say categorically that I am not interested in being a politician. I am not for sale," Clarke told members of the private sector at a function last September.

Former Police Official To Sue U.S. for Slander

PA0102215990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1723 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Feb (DPA)—A former high Mexican police officer who was charged yesterday by a U.S. federal grand jury with killing a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent in Mexico today announced that he will sue U.S. judicial authorities for slander.

The Justice Department announced that a federal grand jury has indicted 19 Mexicans who are implicated in the murder of U.S. DEA Agent Enrique Camarena Salazar, which occurred on 7 February 1985 in Guadalajara, and of two other U.S. citizens in January of the same year.

Among the accused are Ruben Zuno Arce, brother-in-law of former President Luis Echeverria Alvarez, currently being tried in Los Angeles; Miguel Aldana Ibarra, former Interpol director in Mexico from 1982 to 1984; and Manuel Ibarra Herrera, former head of the Judicial Police during the same period.

Aldana Ibarra announced today that he will sue U.S. justice authorities for slander because in 1985, when the murders occurred, "I was neither a police nor an Interpol agent."

He added that the accusation was in response to a statement he made two weeks ago in Mexico to the effect that Enrique Camarena is not dead and instead lives under a new identity in the United States.

The unexpected accusation against 19 Mexican citizens came one month after Mexican authorities declared the case closed after drug traffickers Rafael Caro Quintero and Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo were found guilty of masterminding and perpetrating the crime.

"For Mexico, the case is closed," Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo said in commenting on Zuno Arce's recent arrest in Los Angeles.

Rafael Caro Quintero, known as the "marijuana king," was sentenced to 116 years in jail for Camarena's murder and drug trafficking. In addition, in a third trial that ended yesterday, he was sentenced to two years and 11 months for slandering and threatening a judge.

Aldana Ibarra and Ibarra Herrera, who are considered "fugitives" of U.S. justice, have been charged with participating in Camarena's murder to "protect" cocaine and marijuana shipments of the "Guadalajara Cartel" headed by Caro Quintero and Fonseca Carrillo.

Others who were indicted yesterday by the federal grand jury are Fonseca Carrillo and Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo—both detained in Mexico—and Honduran Juan Ramon Mata Ballesteros, who is currently serving a 70-year sentence in Los Angeles.

Two PRD Members Reported Killed in Michoacan

PA0502211190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0627 GMT
2 Feb 90

[Text] Morelia, Mexico, 1 Feb (AFP)—Two members of the center-left Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) were killed this afternoon in Benito Juarez, a municipality located 130 kms east of Mexico City, by policemen "hired by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)," a PRD spokesman said in Morelia.

So far this year, 16 PRD members have been killed in three states in southeastern Mexico. Michoacan seems to be the most dangerous state for the PRD, since six other PRD members have been killed in Jungapeo, Jacona, Apatzingan, and Tacambaro.

The PRD members were killed by policemen who were aboard the vehicle normally driven by Norberto Arriaga, the PRI delegate in Benito Juarez, PRD deputy Octavio Ortiz reported.

Although the electoral authorities handed over the Benito Juarez Municipality to PRI after the 3 December elections, the PRD formed "a parallel municipal council" in the mayor's office, saying that the PRD candidate was the winner according to the PRD's vote tally sheets.

The policemen approached the PRD men reportedly because of the latter's "suspicious" behavior near the municipality. Moments later, the PRD members were "fired upon." As the result of the shooting, two of the PRD members were killed and another was wounded, a spokesman for the Michoacan prosecutor's office said.

Belize

Prime Minister Discusses Relations With Taiwan

OW0102054190 Taipei CNA in English 0432 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Belize City, Jan 31 (CNA)—Prime Minister George Price said Wednesday [31 January] the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of China and Belize opens a door to trade and economic cooperation between the two countries for the benefit of both.

He also welcomes a state visit to Belize by President Li Teng-hui.

In an interview with the CNA, Price said Belize holds out many opportunities to the enterprising and hard-working people of the Republic of China who can join the Belizeans in the tasks of development for the benefit of all.

"The establishment of relations between our two countries opens the door to trade and economic cooperation that will benefit our peoples greatly," Price pointed out.

Belize is a young, democratic country in the Caribbean. "Our people are friendly," Price said. "Our land is hospitable. The political climate is peaceful and stable. Our country serves as a bridge and a haven of cultural pluralism."

There is already a Chinese community in Belize. Its members, together with all Belizeans, "enjoy human dignity and opportunity," Price said.

Foreign Minister Said Musa said the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries "resulted in great measure from the pragmatic foreign policy of Taipei and what we in Belize call the politics of realism of the new Government."

"The bold and pragmatic foreign policy of Taipei in reaching out to Third World nations such as Belize is in my view an enlightened one which will bring about a resurgence of world recognition for the reality of the Republic of China," Musa pointed out.

"Belize would welcome a state visit by the President of the Republic of China, His Excellency Mr. Li Teng-hui," Musa said. "The exchange of visits between the leaders of the two countries will further strengthen our relationship," he added.

Musa said Belize looks forward to receiving Chinese Ambassador Hung Chien-hsiung. "We are confident that this will serve to strengthen the relations between our two countries," he added.

He said he hopes the Republic of China will see it fit to build an embassy in Belmopan in the not too distant future. "We expect to name an honorary consul in Taipei very shortly," he added, although "because of budgetary constraints we cannot at this stage appoint an ambassador."

"But," Musa said, "we hope to be able to do so in the future."

The new honorary consul in Taipei will be David Tawei Chang.

There are a number of projects of cooperation between the Republic of China and Belize, Musa said. They include the building of a bridge, a housing project, and the establishment of a center for employment training. "These projects," he pointed out, "will contribute greatly to the promotion of friendly relations between our two countries and our peoples."

Belize also welcomes foreign investment, in particular from the Republic of China, Musa said. "We have an investment code and a fiscal incentives law which offer generous tax holidays and duty exemptions for investments in the fields of agriculture, agro-industry, manufactures, fish culture, forestry, and tourism," he added.

"We are looking forward to receiving investors from the Republic of China," Musa said.

Costa Rica

President Arias Acknowledges Calderon Victory

PA0502155990 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
1200 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] President Oscar Arias said last night that the elections were clean and honest. He said: "I believe it has been a beautiful civic event, and all Costa Ricans should be proud of it."

He acknowledged the victory of Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, the Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) candidate, saying that we are showing the world once again that we are politically mature and possess enormous civic awareness.

He wished Calderon success. He said that he hopes to meet with Calderon during the months before 8 May. The doors of the President's palace will always be open to Calderon.

President Arias wants to discuss several important programs with Calderon Fournier. He believes that some programs are being implemented because a democracy's maturity is measured by the continuity of its programs, regardless of which political party started them.

He was clear in stating that he hopes many of the things his government has done will be continued and strengthened.

President Arias said he is very happy because, above all the political, religious, or social differences, he has been loved by the people. He said: "That is one of the most cherished memories I have of these four years. It is gratifying to see people expressing friendship to us."

Yesterday he visited many places. He was impressed by the welcome people gave him. He said that those expressions of gratitude are because people know of the efforts made during these four years to build a bigger and more prosperous Costa Rica.

He said that the government has defended the country's sacred values, adding: "We assumed the commitment and kept our promise of defending the country's sacred values, because that is the legacy that our forefathers left us." He said: "During these four years we have shown the world that we are a small oasis of peace in war-torn Central America, where brothers are still killing each other through war and violence."

He said that he believes the world has appreciated the effort made in Costa Rica to seek peace and to promote freedom and democracy on the continent.

President Arias said: "I want to ask for the forgiveness of those who had expected us to solve their problems. If we have not been able to help them, I want to ask their forgiveness. Those Costa Ricans and everyone else should know that if we have not been able to do what we promised, it is not out of lack of good will or laziness. However, when I look back, I recall that four years ago, in front of the cathedral, I made eight sacred promises. I am satisfied that those eight promises were kept."

President Arias said that today on this continent, for the first time, there is democracy for many countries—like Brazil, where the people spent more than 20 years without being able to elect their leaders, or like Chile, that suffered a dictatorship for 16 years and has now been able to hold a vote.

He said that freedom is now possible in East Europe after more than 40 years of dictatorship, but in Costa Rican we have always had democracy, and that is why we should enjoy it and live it.

Latest Official Figures

PA0502190790 Paris AFP in Spanish 1723 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 5 Feb (AFP)—Opposition candidate Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier has won the presidential election held on Sunday, 4 February, in Costa Rica, with 51.3 percent of the vote, according to the latest official figures, which include 94 percent of the country's polling stations. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] announced today that, with only 438 of the 7,597 polling stations left to be counted, Calderon, who was fielded by the opposition Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC), has obtained 656,282 votes, as opposed to 604,396 (47.3 percent) won by his opponent, Carlos Manuel Castillo, of the ruling National Liberation Party (PLN).

Five other minority parties together won only 1.3 percent of the vote, 17,713 votes, which reflects an unprecedented polarization in the Costa Rican electorate.

As for the legislative elections, the latest official figures confirm the PUSC will obtain 29 of the 57 seats in the new Congress, while the PLN will win 25, and the other three belong to the leftist United People Coalition, and two regional parties, the Generalena Union, and the Cartagena Agricultural Union, which will have one legislator each.

The TSE figures also confirm a 20-percent abstention rate, which is higher than the 18.6 percent recorded in 1986 at the election of Oscar Arias, whose administration will end on 8 May.

Preliminary, Unofficial Results

PA0502162690

San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1605 GMT on 5 February reports the following electoral results for the National Liberation Party [PLN], with Carlos Manuel Castillo as its presidential candidate; the Social Christian Unity Party [PUSC], with Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier as its presidential candidate; the National Progress Party, with Isaac Felipe Azofeifa as its candidate; the United People Coalition, with Daniel Camacho Monge as its candidate; the National Christian Alliance, with Fernando Ramirez Munoz as its candidate; the Revolutionary Workers Party, with Edwin Badilla Aguero as its candidate; and the independent party, with Rodrigo Cordero as its candidate.

Party	Votes
PLN	604,396
PUSC	656,282
National Progress Party	2,439
United People Coalition	656,282 [figure as heard]
National Christian Alliance	4,765
Revolutionary Workers Party	8,755
Independent Party	757

[Immediately after reading the above figures, the radio announcer says: "We have been informed that the final count will begin at 0800 tomorrow when the last bags with electoral documents will be opened."]

El Salvador

Attack on Camp for Repatriated Persons Reported

PA0602010390 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to EL Salvador 0014 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in El Salvador on 5 February]

[Text] The FMLN hereby advises the international community and our people of the following:

1. On 1 February, a government delegation, consisting of Vice President Francisco Merino, Colonel Inocente Montano, and other civilian officials and officers, came

to a camp for repatriated persons, located north of Torola River, Morazan, Meanguera region, in the midst of a military operation with infantry troops. Col. Montano, public security deputy minister, made threats against these persons.

2. After the government delegation left, a helicopter and a C-47 airplane strafed and fired rockets at the camps.

3. We reject and condemn these hostile actions by the government and the Armed Forces against the Salvadoran people.

4. We deem it contradictory that the government and military chiefs accuse the FMLN of planning to launch an offensive, while the government continues to launch offensives in rural and urban areas and continues repression, as in the aforementioned case. As long as there are repression and military offensives, the war will continue. Hence, we feel we are legitimately entitled to use our offensive military power in any point of the country.

[Signed] FMLN

[Dated] 5 February, El Salvador

Evidence Collected on Colonel Benavides Case

PA0502205190 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO
in Spanish 29 Jan 90 p 28

[Text] There is sufficient evidence against the accused Alfredo Benavides to establish his participation in the events that are being investigated. In the first place, there is a sworn statement by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, which says: "...As a result of the terrorist actions that had been taking place in the capital city since the night of 11 November, I ordered reinforcing of security to defend the Manuel Jose Arce and Palermo residential areas, as well as the military compound that includes the National Intelligence Department, the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military Academy, the San Benito Battalion of the National Police, the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, and the Ministry of Defense and Public Security, as these evidently constituted targets of the terrorist aggression. In addition, to directly coordinate the security, I ordered the appointment of a security command, with headquarters at the above-mentioned military academy under the command of Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Morenos, which began to operate on 13 November. That security measure included the area of the Jose Simeon Canas University. There then follow the military units, their location, and the names of the members of the units who, to comply with their mission, remained in the places close to that university from 1800 on 15 November to 0700 on 16 November, according to the information that is available in the General Staff..."

In addition, there are the confessions made by Yusshi Rene Mendoza Vallecillos, Jose Ricardo Espinoza Guerra, and Gonzalo Guevara Cerritos, which had been made before, as well as other evidence that has been

gathered. All of this establishes that the accused participated in the events that are being investigated.

For all of the above-mentioned reasons, and based on Article 247 of the Penal Code, the arrest of the following suspects is hereby ordered: Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Moreno, Yusshi Rene Mendoza Vallecillos, Jose Ricardo Espinoza Guerra, Gonzalo Guevara Cerritos, Antonio Ramiro Avalos Vargas, Tomas Zarpate Castillo, and Angel Perez Vasquez, who are all present, as well as Jorge Alberto Cierri Ascencio, who is absent. All are charged provisionally with murder (Article 154 of the Constitution) of the following persons: Ignacio Ellacuria, Segundo Montes, Ignacio Martin Baro, Juan Ramon Moreno, Armando Lopez, Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, Elba Julia Ramos, and Celina Ramos. The accused must remain under arrest and be turned over to this tribunal, and the corresponding orders of arrest have been issued against the accused who is absent. This is in strict compliance with Articles 47 and 722 of the Penal Code.

* FMLN Leader on UN Role in Peace Talks

32480234A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
13 Jan 90 p 16

[Interview with Salvador Samayoa, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Political-Diplomatic Commission; date and place not given; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [BARRICADA] What new elements would the FMLN include in its demands for beginning negotiations with the Cristiani government?

[Samayoa] The principal new element has to do with procedures. Our view is that the dialogue cannot be merely a continuation of those we had in Mexico and Costa Rica.

There has to be preliminary mediation work by the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

[BARRICADA] What would this preliminary mediation work consist of?

[Samayoa] Perez de Cuellar would first meet separately with each side, try to bring together the positions and explore possible political agreements. Following this work, direct dialogue or negotiations between the parties can again be arranged.

[BARRICADA] Would this work by Perez de Cuellar differ from that being done by the Catholic Church?

[Samayoa] The church is an intermediary. Its role will not disappear, but the content and the manner in which it is carried out will change.

Perez de Cuellar will have the opportunity to develop proposals based on what the parties agree to. [editorial comment omitted]

[BARRICADA] What could you tell us about the possibility of other governments participating in the negotiations with Perez de Cuellar?

[Samayoa] It is possible that there are other governments who would participate in the secretary general's efforts.

[BARRICADA] To what extent could the United States modify its position toward the FMLN?

[Samayoa] The U.S. Government has the mentality of an accountant. It measures costs and benefits and, based on these costs and benefits, makes its political decisions.

The most important thing is for them to clearly understand the cost of supporting a policy like that which has been carried out and its questionable benefits. [editorial comment noting congressional debate on aid to El Salvador omitted]

With respect to this [debate] Samayoa added:

"There is no Soviet or communist threat, which is the argument historically brandished for their interference in Central America or Latin America. They no longer have this."

What reason would there be, then, for having to pursue a Central America policy which is so costly and has so few benefits, the member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission asks. [passage omitted on Samayoa comment noting the 11 November FMLN offensive and the "modification of the guerrillas' theater of operation" which "changed the correlation of forces"]

[BARRICADA] Does the new situation favor a resolution of the crisis? What are the elements which favor this?

[Samayoa] With the change in the correlation of forces, explained Samayoa, we are in a better position to apply military pressure. This, he added, is a fundamental component of the opportunity which is arising for resolving the crisis.

"The other element, on the international level, would be the international political isolation in which the Cristiani regime found itself following the rebel action at the end of the year.

A third element is the realization by the people and the people's organizations of the fascists' cruelty.

"The criminal and fascist nature of this government has been revealed and, for the most part, the people have become more aware of the need to struggle and to organize in order to achieve their aspirations."

"In El Salvador", concluded the member of the FMLN's Political-Diplomatic Commission, "the consensus for a politically negotiated solution has practically been achieved. What has been lacking is the possibility for sectors of private enterprise or of the government itself

to be able to go to the meeting or to reach an understanding on those points of national consensus." [editorial comment omitted]

* Nidia Diaz on Negotiated End to War

90EM0070A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
30 Dec 89 p 3

[Interview with FMLN Commander Nidia Diaz by Darwin Juarez; date and place not given; first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] While the ultraconservative Army and government sectors in El Salvador are stubbornly insisting on resolving the Salvadoran crisis by military means, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], which in the view of its highest leaders has tipped the balance in its own favor and in favor of the the popular sectors, has not changed its determination to achieve a negotiated political solution with the participation of the international community.

In the following exclusive interview granted to BARRICADA, FMLN Comandante Nidia Diaz analyzes the past 10 years of struggle for democratization and full respect for human rights in El Salvador, which has remained in the firm grasp of the fascist clique which enjoys hegemony in the Armed Forces.

Also, Comandante Diaz spoke of the negotiation process proposed to Cristiani's government and the international community within the framework of such internal agreements as the recent statements signed by the Central American presidents in San Isidro de Coronado, but without, however, overlooking the risks which the invasion of Panama may pose.

[BARRICADA] In the 10 years of armed struggle in which the FMLN has played the protagonist's role, some media sources have come to believe that the forces of the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN are balanced. What is your view of the situation in the country?

[Diaz] We believe that an important advance has been made in the struggle being waged by the Salvadoran people. In these 10 years, an effort has been made by the Front to change the political-military situation. We have defeated the counterinsurgency plans, thus pushing this project into crisis and making the fascist nature of the Salvadoran regime clear.

In our view, after 10 years, we have embarked upon a higher stage of struggle, in which the Farabundo Marti Front is on the offensive. Since September of 1988, our forces have been pursuing offensive efforts, which became evident on 11 November, and we have forced the Army into a defensive posture.

By 19 March of this year, the date on which the elections were held in El Salvador, the Army had mobilized 90 percent of its forces in a defensive attitude. This revealed the situation of contradiction and dissolution which had developed, as they themselves noted.

[BARRICADA] Could it be said that this is evidence of the crisis in the counterinsurgency project planned by the Salvadoran Army?

[Diaz] Yes, because there are problems on the command level, in the volume of the ranks, problems of cohesion. We have said that as an institution, an army may be pro-U.S., but within the ranks, various factions, ranging from the most fascist to the minorities which desire peace, are evident.

We can say that the war has changed. It is not in a period of balance, nor is it in a period of stagnation. There has been a dynamics here throughout these years, wherein the political-military aspect has turned favorable to the Front. Currently, Cristiani's government is politically isolated. During Duarte's administration, the government was considerably weakened, without having been able to resolve the conflict, the war, or the economic and social crisis. The pillars of Duarte's proposal throughout all those years collapsed. There was no respect for or functioning of human rights, no economic reactivation, no pluralistic participation, and no political solution to the conflict. Nor could the idea of a military outcome to the Salvadoran conflict, which had been the basis of the thinking in the United States throughout all of these 10 years, win a dominant position. For this reason, this whole vision of Duarte's was defeated.

A War of All the People

[BARRICADA] Could it be said that while the Salvadoran Army has entered into a crisis phase, the FMLN has made considerable advances where its internal cohesion, its links with the popular sectors, and incorporation of them in the struggle are concerned?

[Diaz] In our view, the mountains we have in El Salvador are the masses. During the first years of our efforts, the regime attempted to bring about the dissolution of the entire leftist political bloc, trying by means of genocide to isolate the Front politically and to eliminate its social base. All of this met with defeat, and since 1985, the Front has developed a whole strategy of a war of all the people, incorporating the various popular sectors in the struggle.

Thus the popular movement developed a broad organization in 1986, and it made constant progress in its struggle. Parallel to this, the contingent of democratic political and social forces waging the struggle for peace has been developing. Here we see that the potential for these sectors has not diminished, but has been increasing throughout all these years.

The relationship of the Front with all of these popular sectors is evidenced by the fact that on the basis of its political proposal, the Front represents the demands of all of these sectors. The first is the broadest aspiration of the people—a political outcome to the conflict in order to achieve peace. In the economic and social sectors, there are the reforms and the aspects linked to the

guarantees for the survival of all of these forces, and full prevalence of human rights and political freedoms.

This is what leads to the permanent identification with and the social base of the FMLN, which the Farabundo Marti Front has been building throughout all of these years.

The FMLN, functioning within the framework of the Cristiani regime now that the dialogues in Mexico and San Jose have begun, has suggested that these political and social forces participate in the negotiations, because it believes that these sectors must be represented directly.

In this last offensive we have waged, the saturation bombing and the government decision even to use napalm in some sectors basically represented an effort to hinder the process of insurrection on the part of the popular sectors, and their determination to join in the uprising. But the goals of the bombings and the witch hunt could not be achieved.

[BARRICADA] What is your assessment of the results of the offensive the FMLN launched in November, despite the genocide and the napalm bombing you mentioned?

[Diaz] As the struggle in El Salvador is a political and military one, one would have to assess the favorable balances we have achieved on both the domestic political and international levels. Domestically, the political and social forces in El Salvador have with greater responsibility taken up the need for a negotiated political solution. The Church, the Permanent National Debate Committee, which represents social sectors such as the small businessmen, women, and the university, labor, and peasant sectors—these forces are working toward a negotiated solution. And so too are all the forces making up the humanitarian front, and all of the organizations which defend human rights.

Despite the fact that political space has been closed off by the counterrevolutionary scheme which Cristiani's regime is promoting, the people are waging the struggle in different ways to achieve a political solution. Here too, the links of the Front with these sectors demanding a negotiated solution can be seen.

What we have achieved in the military sector is to push the Salvadoran Army into a defensive strategy, bringing about within it not only a weakening on the basis of its losses and the contradictions in which it finds itself embroiled, but also because of the internal contradictions developing among the various factions in the Army. In this connection, for example, the FMLN has always demanded that the fascist sector represented by General Bustillo, Zepeda, Fuentes, and Ponce, who are typical of the hegemonic group following this line, be purged. This sector must be purged in order to clear a real path toward democratization within the framework of negotiation.

While this military institution finds itself in a defensive position, then, the FMLN, despite the cost in terms of losses which the Front itself has admitted, has kept its strength almost intact, while besieging the principal cities. Although this is no longer being planned on a continuous basis, the FMLN is there. The fact that a 10-day truce was declared for the end of the year does not mean that the level of military struggle has been reduced. We believe that the entire arsenal of tactical methods which were developed beginning on 11 November, and which will continue to develop, will give the effort much more systematic continuity.

We have established new theaters of confrontation, new rearguard zones, and a process of consolidation in these new zones. This is true above all in San Salvador, Santa Ana, San Miguel, Usulután, and Zacatecoluca, where the Front has the capacity to become established and grow.

A Negotiated Political Solution

[BARRICADA] But do you not believe that with these plans, you give the impression that the FMLN is seeking to seize power via the armed path?

[Diaz] No. For us, the advocacy of a negotiated political solution has always been there.

What is happening is that Cristiani's government has espoused a false premise. It presumed the weakness of the FMLN, based on the suspension of sabotage, the truces, the flexibility of our thinking concerning a negotiated solution, and above all, the fact that in January of this year, we offered to participate in the elections, because of the support we could offer the Democratic Convergence within the framework of democratic conditions. There was also the proposal we took to Mexico about how to bring about a definitive end to the hostilities by means of concrete steps, and what happened in San Jose—a much better developed scheme of reforms and measures for democratization. All of these things were regarded as representing weakness in the Front.

This was the false premise taken as a basis. And Cristiani needed to improve his image. For this reason, a plan was laid out on the table, like a game. The idea was to drag the dialogue out for as long as possible while Cristiani's image was being rebuilt, and while they were pursuing military plans which would weaken the FMLN. It was then that the FMLN decided to make an offensive effort within the context of the logic we had been developing, and to seek to create the space for a purge of the Army, in order to bring about the democratization of the country through a negotiated political solution. But they did not choose to support this. With their bombing of the people and the intensification of the war, they continue to opt for a military solution.

International Demand for Negotiation

[BARRICADA] However, despite what you have said about a negotiated political solution to the Salvadoran

conflict, the FMLN has recently made known its displeasure with the agreements signed by the Central American presidents in San Isidro de Coronado. Does the FMLN currently maintain this position? How do you explain this contradiction between your position in favor of a negotiated political solution, on the one hand, and the FMLN rejection of the agreements signed by the Central American presidents, on the other?

[Diaz] We regard the results of the San Isidro Agreements as important, linking them with the effort made by the United Nations, through its secretary general, to mediate in the Salvadoran conflict with a view to a negotiated outcome. This is the important thing to be respected in the San Isidro Agreements, because it coincides with what we propose. Eight days after launching its offensive force, the FMLN heeded the appeal of the international community, of all the world political and social forces, and the clamor of the people for a cease-fire. We said that indeed we agree with on-site verification. What purpose would a cease-fire serve for us? Naturally, it would pave the way for real negotiations in the country leading to the elimination of the causes underlying the conflict. We are, then, open to this position. We are not in conflict with the spirit of San Isidro concerning the negotiated solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

But it is true that we see other agreements here, legitimizing Cristiani's regime, which in our view contradict the logic of the entire international community. Three days after the San Isidro Agreements were reached, the international community, through the United Nations, issued a practical condemnation of Cristiani's government for its violations of human rights. This is a much broader international forum, but here too, both parties are being urged to seek a negotiated political solution.

This resolution is important because it describes the Salvadoran conflict as one which is not international, so that conditions and rights are enjoyed equally by both parties. It is recognized that there are two powers in El Salvador, with equal conditions and rights.

The Mexican Government petition asking that we and the Salvadoran regime establish a truce, which was later endorsed by Mr Baena Soares, seemed quite timely to us, because it developed interest on the part of the national forces in spending the end of the year in peace. The FMLN has already heeded this appeal, with a view to making progress toward the development of an atmosphere favorable to a negotiated political solution to the conflict.

But we also see this matter of the cease-fire as closely linked with the establishment of guarantees in El Salvador, so that the political and social forces can exercise their rights and freedoms. For at the present moment, the counterrevolutionary situation—that is, the state of siege, the curfew, and the antiterrorist law—is eliminating or limiting political space. This entire situation, without having defeated the FMLN, the popular movement, or the political parties, nor the democratic and

revolutionary forces in general, is a rather complicated and dangerous one for Cristiani's regime.

But I believe that in the future, the work done to achieve a negotiated political settlement will be rather successful, because this is an international demand which has the support of the secretary generals of the OAS and the United Nations. The Congress of the United States itself is debating the issue of aid to Cristiani, and there are various positions. I believe that the bombing of the people and the assassination of the Jesuits by this counterrevolutionary regime will, by escalating repression, provoke increasing interest in discussions designed to determine what purpose this aid is serving.

Search for Consensus in 1990

[BARRICADA] Since you have insisted so forcefully on a negotiated political solution to the Salvadoran crisis, what lines of action does the FMLN propose to pursue in this direction in 1990, above all taking into account the new situation created by the U.S. invasion of Panama?

[Diaz] All of our political-military and diplomatic plans are oriented toward achieving a just and enduring peace which will establish conditions such that violence will not continue in El Salvador. The current work being done on the national level by all of the political and social forces involves a search for a consensus among all the forces. Beginning with 11 November, there has been a rather well-articulated plan involving all of these forces, and we know that each party is seeking to organize a scheme for a political solution to the conflict.

There is, then, a dynamics here which will continue, and which the FMLN cannot oppose. This would run counter to the logic of events and the maturity of the people. While there is no cease-fire in El Salvador, we will continue to develop our political-military plans from a position of moral strength, of better conditions, because of the experience gained in the 11 November offensive. And under more favorable conditions, we will continue to seek to destroy the hegemony of the group of military officers in El Salvador characterized by a fascist tendency.

On the diplomatic level, we will continue to work to bring the mediation by the international community to completion, which will make it possible to agree on a cease-fire in the country and to clear the way for a negotiated political solution. We will continue to work with solidarity on the international level, seeking to ensure that all of the expression generated since 11 November will continue, so as to strengthen the people further and to provide the political space they need.

In this new stage of the war, I believe that the approach toward a real negotiated solution, not a situation of dialogue for its own sake, is more imminent than ever, so that the goal of negotiation on the issues which gave rise to the conflict can be achieved. And no solution is possible without the participation of all of the political and social forces.

We believe that the confrontation between the government and ourselves is such that the suggestions of the majority of the forces must be included in the negotiations. For this reason, our lines of action will be oriented in this direction.

On the other hand, as politicians and revolutionaries, we cannot ignore yet another step in the intervention by the United States in the Salvadoran conflict. But we also note that there are major differences of opinion within the Congress of the United States, and that various sectors in that country do not favor an invasion or greater intervention on the part of the United States. Precisely because of these interests, the FMLN has constantly reiterated its policy of avoiding attacks on U.S. installations and personnel in El Salvador, even despite the invasion of Panama.

We believe that the 11 November effort led to this situation in the Congress of the United States. It may perhaps have put the issue of Central America, and of El Salvador in particular, on the agenda of a Bush-Gorbachev summit meeting for the first time. Also, the various international community forums—the Rio Group, the OAS, the European Parliament, the Group of 12—all of these have turned their attention to the Salvadoran problem, to the extent that it has come to be one of the priority issues in the discussions by the international community and in public opinion.

The U.S. Does Not Merit Confidence

[BARRICADA] But with the precedent the United States is establishing with the invasion of Panama....

[Diaz] We believe that there is never any reason to trust the United States, because it is imperialist in nature. The estimates by the Front about the reaction of the United States when we made the 11 November effort proved correct, but we believe that the Americans too must assess their actions, and they may leave it to the peoples to decide on their own destiny. And we Salvadorans will be the people who will know how to resolve our own conflict.

The United States was able to order the bombing of concentrated sectors of the population, and today it is able to invade Panama, to occupy it, and to depose a government. It was also the United States which decided to use the atomic bomb. That country is, then, capable of deciding many things, and we do not dismiss this. But all of the complications which may immediately result from another invasion will create major problems for the Americans.

We are also working from the premise that the painful events in Panama have had a moralizing effect on the anti-imperialist forces struggling for self-determination. The Panamanian people have shown their dignity, which is the feeling of Latin America, and this has strengthened the Front combatants. It also gives great importance to the struggle in El Salvador for self-determination and sovereignty. I think that as time passes, the United States

will reverse its intention to transform Central America within a counterrevolutionary context.

Guatemala

Army Denies Pressuring Congress Against Amnesty

PA0602014590 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 25 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] Army Spokesman Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez sent a letter to Deputy Juan Carlos Simons, who heads the MLN [National Liberation Movement] bloc, accusing him of promoting a campaign of hostility and disinformation against the Army, with the intention of destabilizing the military as an institution.

Col. Isaacs' accusation against Deputy Simons is based on the latter's statement that he has heard that [Defense Minister] General Gramajo is pressuring the Congress so it will not grant an amnesty to military officers implicated in the 9 May 1989 aborted coup.

In rejecting Deputy Simon's statement, Col. Isaacs said Defense Minister Gen. Hector Alejandro Gramajo respects the independence of the government branches and the majesty of the law.

In his letter to Simons, Col. Isaacs said: "Your statement is further proof of your disinformation campaign against the Guatemalan Army, using the defense minister as a target."

Col. Isaacs added that Deputy Simons "is trying to destabilize our institution." He also rejected Simons' allegation of apparent instability within the Army, stating that "the allegation is groundless and therefore is merely seen as an ill-intentioned supposition."

Finally, Isaacs' letter said: The Guatemalan Army regrets your persistent hostile attitude against the Guatemalan Army, which is again being hurt because of political and partisan interests.

Meanwhile, Deputy Juan Carlos Simons rejected Col. Isaacs' accusations in the sense that he is conducting a campaign of disinformation and hostility against the Army with the intention of destabilizing the institution.

The confrontation between Isaacs and Simons began after the latter said that he has heard that the defense minister is exerting pressure on the Congress to prevent the granting of an amnesty to the coupists. This statement was immediately refuted by Col. Isaacs, who in turn accused him of promoting a campaign against the Army.

In his letter, Deputy Simons reminds the military spokesman that a ministerial position—specifically referring to Gen. Gramajo—is a political and public post and that therefore, he is subject to criticism from those who maintain an authentic, clear, and well-defined opposition.

Simons said: "It looks like Defense Minister Gramajo thinks that he is the Guatemalan Army, as he claims that I am attacking the institution, because I disagree with the minister's policy."

Simons added: "I recall that on various occasions I have expressed my admiration, respect, and full support for the Army, which good Guatemalans have given a place of honor in their victorious struggle against Marxist subversion."

Finally, in his letter, Deputy Simons urges Col. Isaacs and Gen. Gramajo to publicly voice their opinion with regard to an amnesty for the coupists, since they have denied that they are against that bill, which will be debated by Congress.

Editorial Views Report's Omission of U.S. Aid

PA0602040590 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 24 Jan 90 p 10

[Editorial: "Where Is the U.S. Aid?"]

[Text] Almost coinciding with statements by Rodolfo Rohrmoser Valdeavellano, Guatemala's ambassador to the United States—who is about to become the former ambassador—that that country might reduce its economic aid for Guatemala, there has been a mistake of omission attributable to the Guatemalan Government that could eventually have some repercussions.

A report on the overall state of the Republic and the administration's business between 15 January 1989 and 13 January 1990 presented by President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo to the Congress of the Republic on 14 January provides details about international cooperation, donations, loans, and consultancies during 1989, but there is not a single reference to U.S. aid.

It is known that the United States gave Guatemala about \$300 million in 1988 and 1989. What is curious is that neither the 1988 nor 1989 reports mention that aid.

Cerezo stated: "For Guatemala, the support received from the international community, especially the cooperation from friendly countries and organizations, has been an essential factor in our development and a complement to national efforts to strengthen our technical, administrative, and productive capabilities."

He referred to aid received from Spain, Mexico, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Japan, Canada, Netherlands, Venezuela, FRG, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Central American Economic Integration Bank, the UN Development Program, the World Food Program, UNICEF, the OAS, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Population Commission, the UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration.

The president explained the destination of each donation and each loan, but omitted any reference to U.S. economic cooperation.

To overlook this aid in the 1988 report could be a mistake—according to U.S. officials—but to repeat the omission in the last report is something that seems very strange to them.

Everyone knows that the president, when drafting the report, uses information supplied by ministers, their advisers, or the president's advisers; therefore, the mistake can be attributed to the institution in charge of funneling international economic aid. Is it the National Economic Planning Council's general secretariat?

The report consists of two subsections—one for bilateral international cooperation and another for multilateral international cooperation. U.S. aid appears in neither.

As it amounts to approximately \$300 million for the two years mentioned—the equivalent of 1.410 billion quetzales, at yesterday's exchange rate—it is normal to believe that these funds did not simply vanish. They cannot vanish. To our way of thinking, it is a mistake the government must explain and correct in writing, because in the least case, it is a silence the U.S. Government does not deserve.

The issue gains special interest now that the Administrative Control Department, which is directly under the Presidency of the Republic, has announced it will formally try several employees of the Public Health and Social Welfare Ministry "involved in the mishandling of millions of dollars donated by the Agency for International Development, AID, and several German agencies."

The Administrative Control Department revealed it is investigating reports of alleged fraud at a state bank, the Treasury Police, and other entities under the executive branch, including the Labor and Social Security Ministry.

At any rate, it is an obligation to inform donors how Guatemala's public administration spends those funds. It is the least it can do. It is, let us say, an unavoidable courtesy.

Article Discusses Army's New Chain of Command

PA0602021690 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 24 Jan 90 p 11

[Article by Abundio Maldonado]

[Text] Division General Hector Alejandro Gramajo Morales, whose military record includes commanding the Knight Cadets Battalion on the day our glorious Guatemalan Polytechnic School reached its 100th anniversary, is expected to leave his post as defense minister on 30 June at 2400 hours (in non-military language: at midnight). It is the president and commanding general's prerogative to confirm him at his post until the end of the current presidential term. However, that would not

be in line with the command structure, and therefore I am sure that General Gramajo would never accept it.

It is also the president's prerogative to appoint the national defense minister. The Army's Constitutive Law specifies that whoever assumes the Army's command as defense minister must be a general or a colonel. However, the Constitution of the Republic, which rules over any other law in our legal system, simply specifies that the president appoints his ministers of state. Here, too, the commanding general would be wrong if he broke the command's structure. Consequently, on 1 July at 0000 Brigadier General Juan Leonel Bolanos Chavez will be sworn in as national defense minister, and thus will move into one of the most beautiful, comfortable, and traditional residences in our lovely capital: "The Cream House." That was the name given to that traditional building by General Ydigoras Fuentes, who made it his presidential house. By the way, I once asked him why he never moved to 5th Street and 6th Avenue in Zone One. The late president replied: "I would never live in the house where President Castillo Armas was killed."

So Gen. Bolanos will soon be division general. He is highly qualified for that rank, and his current position as commander of the National Defense General Staff—third in the Army's command—makes him worthy of the promotion. On 14 January 1991, when a new Guatemalan president will assume his post, if the new president so decides, Gen. Bolanos could continue as national defense minister until 30 June 1991, when he must retire from the Army. Should he not be confirmed by the new president, Gen. Bolanos would have to retire 6 months before completing his time in service.

Next in the chain of command is Brigadier Juan Jose Marroquin Siliezar, who according to the obligatory line of command, and always respecting the Army's institutional structures, will be the National Defense General Staff commander. In case Division General Bolanos Chavez is not confirmed as minister by the new president, then Marroquin Siliezar, who by that time should already be a division general, would be sworn in as defense minister. However, it could also happen that if the president sworn in on 14 January 1991 decides not to confirm Gen. Bolanos, and not to appoint Gen. Marroquin as national defense minister, the two generals would have to retire from the Army, regardless of their time in service or their age at the time of retirement.

To conclude, as an attorney said, "there is jurisprudence," because the current president did not promote General Lobos Zamora from chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to minister. Therefore, Lobos was forced to retire prior to the established date. The same happened with Gen. Letona Linares, who after losing the opportunity to be appointed minister, and being chief of the joint chiefs of staff, retired. Congratulations on their promotions to the two Juans: Generals Bolanos and Marroquin.

Relations Established With Jordan, Algeria

PA0602015890 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO
in Spanish 1 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry, through Deputy Foreign Minister Julio Armando Martini, announced on 31 January that, in compliance with the constitutional mandate and the government plan, it will establish diplomatic relations with countries that have contacts with Guatemala.

As a result, Martini added that Guatemala has established diplomatic relations as of 31 January with two other countries. One of them is the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, located in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, and the other is the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

The foreign minister stated that diplomatic relations have been established in full to the level of concurring embassies. Accordingly, Guillermo Putzeys Alvarez, Guatemalan ambassador accredited before the French Government, will represent Guatemala before the Algerian Government.

Francisco Villagran de Leon, the Guatemalan ambassador to the United Nations, will represent Guatemala before the Jordanian Government.

The Jordanian and Algerian ambassadors accredited either in Mexico or in Costa Rica will probably represent their governments' interests in Guatemala. The foreign minister believes the ambassadors accredited in Mexico will represent their respective countries in Guatemala.

Salvadorans, Hondurans, Nicaraguans Need Visas

PA0502221590 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO
in Spanish 27 Jan 90 p 7

["Agreement" issued by General Immigration Directorate in Guatemala City; date not given]

[Text] The General Immigration Directorate, considering:

That the entry of Central Americans in our country has greatly increased because of the special economic and political conditions prevailing on the isthmus, thus creating a very complex problem, and that this problem includes the use of Guatemala as a bridge to illegally enter the United States, with the resulting consequence of deportation and the entry of people without any definite purposes or occupation;

That this problem also affects the interests of those travelling to this nation as they become insecure as to their immigration status in Guatemala because they lack the knowledge about the requirements that must be met to enter this country and stay, a situation that makes them easy victims of unscrupulous people who do this type of paperwork; and

That the aforementioned facts compelled the government to adopt measures that will permit a strict control

of the immigration flow and guarantee an efficient treatment of Central Americans.

Therefore, based on Articles 1, 2, 3, Paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 31, 32, 35, 114, and 115 of the Immigration Law,

It decides:

That, effective 1 February 1990, the citizens of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua will need visas to enter this country. These visas will be granted free of charge.

Nicaragua**Ortega Submits Bill on Prisoners' Release**

PA0502215090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1940 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] President Daniel Ortega today submitted to the National Assembly a draft bill designed to release from prison 1,186 political prisoners, including 39 former officers of the Somozist Guard who have been in prison for 10 years, a parliamentary source has announced. The same source reported that the request for the release of the prisoners, most of whom are accused of carrying out armed activities against the government of Managua, will be debated on 7 February by the National Assembly plenum.

After meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo last week, Pres. Ortega announced the release of the prisoners and said that his decision to release from prison the 1,186 contras and former Somozist Guards was based on the request made by the Nicaraguan bishops, particularly Obando y Bravo.

Late last December, the government pardoned 1,649 former Somozist Guardsmen, but excluded 39 former officers of that armed institution which was overthrown on 19 July 1979, stating they had been reluctant to be reeducated and had demonstrated an aggressive attitude.

In the past few days, Ortega has explained to the people the need to release the contras and former Somozist guards, saying that peace has a very high cost. Pres. Ortega has asked the U.S. Government to order the contras to release approximately 1,000 Sandinist soldiers who have been kidnapped by the contras.

With the release of these political prisoners, Nicaraguan prisons will be empty, a Sandinist leader remarked during the election campaign.

FSLN Commander Nunez Views Military Service

PA0602043090 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
4 Feb 90 pp 3, 4

[Text] Commander Carlos Nunez has announced that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] will reform the policies of the revolution, including military doctrine and the Patriotic Military Service (SMP) law.

"We are convinced that we are going to achieve our basic goal of achieving peace, which means we will reform the policies of the revolution and the SMP, inasmuch as there will be a new political, economic, and defense situation," Nunez said yesterday when answering many questions on the program "These Are My People" over Radio Sandino.

The first FSLN candidate to the National Assembly even pointed out [words indistinct] after the 25 February elections.

Among other things, he mentioned the creation of new conditions on how the SMP should be implemented in an atmosphere of total peace, the progressive reduction of the recruitment, the review of the study plans, and the technical and professional training of the youths in service.

During the radio program that lasted over an hour, Carlos Nunez was accompanied by Sandinist legislative candidates Rafael Solis and Danilo Aguirre. Expanding on the same subject, Aguirre addressed the Nicaraguan mothers and youths, explaining that the rightist parties only want the elimination of the SMP and not the end of the war, which is what has killed the youths.

"It is very easy to ask that we continue at war, and at the same time, ask for the elimination of military service, because this [words indistinct] the defense and the victory of the counterrevolution for the youth to continue dying," Danilo Aguirre said, adding that the rightists have never been interested in discussing how to reform the SMP law, and that this is an initiative of the FSLN.

Commander Nunez warned that the far-right wing has been talking about the elimination of the SMP as if it were their main slogan, but that is nothing more than a way to get votes from mothers, girlfriends, sons, and parents.

In this regard, he added: "The Sandinists are not liars. Our basic goal is to attain peace, and one of the conditions for attaining peace is to end the war."

He maintained that this will be done with the overwhelming victory of the FSLN at the elections, which will force the demobilization of the contras and the initiation of talks with the U.S. Government, and in this case the Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry would redesign the military doctrine of the revolution.

In other words, he pointed out, we will redesign the SMP law in an objective and constructive manner, with patience, flexibility, and receptivity; we will propose an adjustment to the law in which youths can comply with the service in a tranquil manner and their families will not suffer great distress.

He noted that the FSLN supports the appeal His Holiness John Paul II made to Italian soldiers in April last year, in which he pointed out that because of its very nature military service is a positive social service, very

honorable and honest, and that the central point of it is the defense of the common good and the truth, and especially the defense of those unjustly attacked.

"In sum, we do not consider the SMP law as something immutable. Under new conditions [words indistinct] and introduce a large number of reforms in which youths who are complying with the service or who are willing to comply with it can participate," he added.

However, he insisted: "We must not lie, because we believe that abolishing the SMP would be the suicide of the Nicaraguan Revolution, because it would mean the disappearance of the Armed Forces, unprotected borders, and also that the contras would be able to move about in a larger territory."

Borge Discusses Political Situation, Elections

AU0502221690 Vienna DER STANDARD in German
5 Feb 90 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez by Leo Gabriel "one month before the elections;" place not given]

[Text] [DER STANDARD] Commander, as the founder of the Sandinist Front, you have had various visions about Nicaragua's future in the course of your life. How do they compare with today's reality?

[Borge] At the beginning of our struggle the world was different. Today, our colored dreams of that time are in contrast with the present black-and-white dreams. However, the basic elements of our first dreams have become reality. The backbone of our struggle was the liberation of our country from foreign rule. Today, the Nicaraguan is finally the master of his country.

[DER STANDARD] There is the vision of Nicaraguan socialism. To what extent has this first concept been modified?

[Borge] We basically cling to our former concept of socialism. After the victory of the revolution almost 11 years ago, we drew the attention of our socialist friends to the gray color with which they covered their system and also to the urgent necessity of a democratic opening up.

I told Czechoslovak intellectuals that denying the existence of Kafka corresponds to Kafka's style. We considered a transformation necessary—a transformation later called perestroika. We interpreted "restructuring" as a substantial progress and as the sinker of outdated values, which would surface again in a social system that had already been overcome. Thus, we were the precursors of changes in the socialist countries.

[DER STANDARD] In 1984 your presidential ambitions were discussed. A few months ago, your candidacy as vice president was mentioned.

The revolution has meant life; the counterrevolution, the Somoquist guardsmen, and UNO [National Opposition Union] have meant death. They have meant death. They have meant the destruction of schools. Or perchance has the revolution gone to the rural areas to destroy schools? [Crowd shouts: "No."] Has it destroyed health centers in the countryside? [Crowd shouts: "No."] Who destroyed the bridges? [Crowd shouts: "The contras."] Who mined the ports at Corinto and on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast? [Crowd shouts indistinct answer] Who set fire to the fuel depots in Corinto? [Crowd shouts indistinct answer] Who killed the nuns on 1 January 1990? [Crowd shouts: "The UNO!"] The GN [National Guard; reference to Somoquist National Guard] - UNO knows how to kill; the GN-UNO knows how to destroy; the GN-UNO knows

how to do evil, but they have no idea how to do good deeds. How many days do we have left before the triumph? Twenty-two days. Here we have the candidate for deputy for this department, for this area: Comrade Javier Tellez. Javier Tellez. [applause] Do we have Tellez followers here? [Crowd cheers] Then you know Javier? [Crowd cheers]

Napoleon Carballo. [applause] Do we have small Masaya industrialists here? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] What about from Carazo? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] What about Masaya? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] What about Granada? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] What about Leon? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Then why do they say that this is a staged rally? Are there only people from Carazo here? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Where are the people from Carazo? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] Where are the people from Carazo? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"]

Comrade Fernando Fernandez. [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Do the people from Diriamba know him? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Masatepe's Rogelio Ramirez? Rogelio, where are you? Rogelio went for a walk. Comrade Arnulfo Mendieta. Do you know Arnulfo? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Fernando Jerez. Do the people from San Marcos know Fernando? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Do you know Guillermo Jimenez from Jinotepe? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Ernesto Bendana. He is visiting. He belongs to the Rivas youths. He is the only stranger here, because I feel as if I were from Carazo. Joaquin Rios, another stranger from Belen, Rivas Department, who comes to show his support. [applause] He is candidate for deputy in the area. We must take into account that this region is important. Let us give our vote throughout Nicaragua for all the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] deputies. Hand me that letter. Here we also have Comrade Roman Martinez—Rommel. This stranger is from Masaya. [applause] He is a professional and a candidate for deputy. William Ramirez. [cheers] He is from [word indistinct].

We all know Herty [Lewites] [Applause, crowd chants: "Herty! Herty! Herty!"]

We have 22 days to go, right? How many days to go? [Crowd shouts: "Twenty-two!"] Twenty-two days. Don't you think it is strange that we have not introduced a single woman? Where are the women here? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] Where are the women? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] Here we have a candidate for council from Jinotepe, Comrade Lila Aguilar! [applause, cheers] We have 22 days still to go, correct? We have 22 days to go before we once again defeat the people's enemy.

In 22 days we will win another battle for peace. In 22 days everything will be better in Nicaragua and the war will end. That is why I recently met with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and the Catholic bishops of the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua, and I told them that, as further evidence of the Nicaraguan revolution's generosity, I was going to request the pardon and release of the contras who are in prison and the 39 former Somo-

guards who are still in prison. [shouts heard in the background] Cardinal Obando y Bravo also agreed that it was necessary to demand the release of kidnapped people who are still in the contras' hands.

I told him that the U.S. Government now has the opportunity to seek an agreement with the Nicaraguan Government, because the U.S. Government knows that it lost the battle, that it lost the battle the people waged against Somoza; that it lost the battle the people waged against the contras; and that it lost the battle the people waged in the 1984 elections; and it has already lost the 25 February 1990 battle! [applause, shouts]

Therefore, from this beautiful and courageous city of Jinotepe, I invite the U.S. Government to begin serious talks for normalizing relations between our two nations, to end the U.S. policy of death for Nicaragua, and to show the international community that powers like the United States can learn to respect small nations, which, like Nicaragua, have earned the right to be respected! [applause, shouts]

On 25 February we will hold elections and everyone must participate, meaning those who are gathered here and those who are in the streets and in their houses. We must talk to those who might still have doubts and to those who are still confused. We must tell them that on 25 February we must vote for Nicaragua. We must vote in the three ballots, meaning the ballot to elect a president and vice president, the ballot to elect deputies, and the ballot to elect councilmen, because all the people's power, all the strength of the people's power, must be in the ballot to elect a president and a vice president, the ballot to elect deputies, and the ballot to elect councilmen!

The people's power must be felt in the ballots cast by the people of Jinotepe and Carazo, who will vote in box number...what? [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] Therefore... [Addresses unidentified speaker] all right, let them come up. She may come up. Come up. Therefore, where will we vote on 25 February? [Crowd shouts: "In box five!"] There are 10 boxes. There is a circle within box five. You must put an "X" in the circle.

But do not write long live Jinotepe, or long live San Marcos, or long live Diriamba on your ballot or your vote will be lost. It will be annulled.

We must not write anything except an X in box five. We must explain this well, because this is a battle, and in a battle the soldier knows where to shoot. We cannot waste rounds. This is also like planting, where the farmer sows the seeds in fertile soil and not in rocky soil.

If we want a flourishing Nicaragua, we must plant our vote in fertile soil. Good, fertile, productive soil is found in box five. Brothers of Jinotepe, Diriamba, San Marcos, and Carazo: I invite you on 25 February to vote for an end to the war by voting in box number... [Crowds shouts: "Five!"]. For there to be peace, we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. For an improved

economy we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. For the land to belong to he who tills it, we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. For true reconciliation among Nicaraguans, we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. For the unity of Nicaragua, we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. For peace, brothers, we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. For the maimed veterans, we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. For the blood of our heroes and martyrs, we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. For Christianity and devotion, we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. For everything to be better in Nicaragua, we must vote in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. In box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"].

And everything will be better. And everything will be better. And everything will be better. And everything will be better. [Crowd chants: "Everything will be better! Everything will be better!"]

And everything will be better. [Crowd shouts: "Everything will be better!"] And everything will be better. [Crowd shouts: "Everything will be better!"]. Because that is what the people of Jinotepe, Diriamba, San Marcos, and Carzao have decided. Because that is what the Nicaraguan people want. That is what Augusto Cesar Sandino, Pedro Fonseca, German Pomares, Camilo Ortega, and all our heroes and martyrs have ordered.

Long live the people of Diriamba! [Crowd shouts: "Long live Diriamba!"] Long live the people of San Marcos! [Crowd shouts: "Long live San Marcos!"] Long live the people of Jinotepe! [Crowd shouts: "Long live Jinotepe!"] Long live Jinotepe! Long live Jinotepe! [Crowd shouts: "Long live Jinotepe!"] We shall win! We shall win! [Crowd shouts: "We shall win!"] Free fatherland... [Crowd shouts: "Or death!"]

Article Examines 'Dilemma' of Electoral Observers

PA0502221390 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO
in Spanish 28 Jan 90 p 6

[Article by Sergio Ferrari]

[Text] Electoral observation by international organizations—especially the OAS and ONUVEN [UN Observer Mission for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua]—is not an easy task. Observers are confronted with "risks" that are only taken because of their firm conviction that, with their work, they are making a practical contribution to the attainment of peace in the region.

Observers' difficulties are linked, not so much to specific tasks (such as going to meetings, talking with parties, suggesting improvements in procedures, tone of campaign, etc.), but because their evaluations and conclusions will not necessarily be "accepted by U.S. leaders."

It is well known that the United States carries tremendous weight in international forums and this does not exclude the UN or OAS.

A recent event can illustrate the complexity of observation at this determinative phase of Nicaragua's electoral process.

Top Bush administration officials commented on the third OAS report to the media. It had been presented by OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares, and these officials took it upon themselves to highlight certain aspects of it. According to "their" reading of the report, the report condemned Sandinism and increased doubts about the cleanliness of the process. Hours later multinational media organizations spread their views on the electoral process to the world and this version ultimately appeared in broad letters on the front page of LA PRENSA on 18 January. The opposition newspaper's headline read "OAS Asks Sandinism To Stop Electoral Violence," and added a yet stronger subtitle: "Baena Soares Regrets Lack of Understanding and Intolerance."

The manipulation and use of sentences out of context was so evident that in an interview given to the U.S. CNN Television Network a few days later, Baena Soares reaffirmed (almost in rejection) "the normality of the electoral process." He stated that he did not have "any reason to say that the elections were not going to be free and honest" and recalled the spirit of the observers' tasks.

"The reports (three up to now) are made by observers, not judges... they are not passive reports... we also try to make contributions to perfect the process..." thus actually questioning U.S. and media manipulation of the report he presented on 10 January.

Undoubtedly, one of the strongest points made by Baena during his talk with CNN, was his analysis of the media in the electoral process. Although he noted "offenses and inadequate treatment" he did not separate them from the "norm" of electoral processes elsewhere in the world, including self-proclaimed "pure democracies" such as the United States. "I have lived there (in Washington) for the past six years and I have seen many elections in which I considered that what the candidates were saying to each other was not very civilized." A few moments before, and comparing this with the judgements made with regard to Nicaragua, Baena said, "in that country, (the United States) there has also been and is violence when sensitive subjects are discussed."

The OAS November/December report, consisting of 17 pages divided into four chapters and several general considerations, presents several topics, concerns, and recommendations. Two key examples, however, accentuate the report—the negative influence of continued military actions in the normal development of the electoral process and the call made to all political parties to contribute toward a favorable climate.

"The political parties' main responsibility is to highlight the programmed aspects of the process and not to invent or simply reject the adversary. They must set the level and tone of the electoral campaign and thus must determine the quality of the political process they wish to have," said Baena Soares.

Analyzing reports of "intimidation and harassment" denounced by several parties, the report notes that "they take place especially in areas of armed action" and that the highest number of violent incidents "take place in places where, in the recent past, social polarization has resulted in armed conflict."

The dilemma for observing organizations remains complicated. Although their opinions are not intended to change into the verdict of judges, U.S. leaders and sectors that oppose a possible Sandinist electoral victory will not fail to make use of observations...if there is something negative in them.

Each OAS/ONUEN observation of Nicaraguan society in general will be considered a unilateral criticism of government; each concern expressed will be taken as an accusation; and any recommendation will be interpreted as evidence that the elections are dirty and dishonest.

It could even be that the essence of electoral observation is questioned as it could be seen, not as the international community accompanying the country in this significant moment and in response to an invitation of a sovereign state, but (as U.S. leaders would like to have it) as an instrument of pressure to obtain a political opening that will reach its peak on 25 February.

To attempt to give the OAS and ONUEN the role of disqualifying judges would be to divert the spirit of the original model of elections and verification, as it would damage the criteria of national sovereignty. This is why the road that must be traversed by international observers is difficult—almost on a razor's edge. The Nicaraguan people are not to be blamed for this, but rather the importance of the February election for the geopolitical future of the United States in the region.

30 Jan Press Review on Election Campaign

PA0502210090

[Editorial Report] The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) newspaper BARRICADA on page 6 features a report on President Daniel Ortega's and Vice President Sergio Ramirez' 28 January visit to San Marcos municipality, and the fact that the ensuing rally was an "apotheosis" that surpassed all expectations. The report adds that "more than 10,000 people filled the streets" and "participated in a true feast." The newspaper also says Ortega reminded the people that "they have a date on 25 February" when all will vote en masse for "social progress" and the country's "economic reactivation."

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA carries on page 3 a report on the 29 January National Opposition Union (UNO) rally held in Rio Blanco, where "approximately 12,000 people" gathered to cheer UNO leaders Roberto Urroz, Azucena Ferrey, Miriam Arguello, Ivan Madriz, and Francisco Anzoategui. The report adds that the event was delayed until noon "to wait for the arrival of many peasants, whose convoy had been held back by the police in Matiguas."

LA PRENSA also features a page 3 article by Celso Martinez on the Rio Blanco rally, revealing that "members of the military" attacked the UNO motorcade with "tomatoes, dirty water, rocks, empty bullet shells, and bullets." The article emphasizes that these actions did not deter the people, who traveled "by horse, cart, and on foot to participate in the rally," which was held "despite the heavy rain."

The same newspaper publishes an editorial on page 2 entitled "The People Have the Right to Reconciliation," saying that "the efforts exerted by His Eminence Miguel Obando y Bravo and Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro seem to be paying off, efforts which satisfy the Nicaraguan family" because the government has offered to release "a still undetermined number" of political prisoners. The editorial says Daniel Ortega's announcement on the release, issued before the elections, "confirms his weak position" in the electoral race. The editorial adds that "the prisoners must be released on the same date that the pardon is implemented," emphasizing that the government should "authorize access to the Sandinist prisoners" to determine with precision the number of prisoners involved, because the government and opposition figures are quite different.

31 Jan Press Review

PA0602005290

[Editorial Report] The pro-government newspaper BARRICADA published on pages 1 and 2 a report by Martha Marina Gonzalez on the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) candidates' 30 January rally in Ocotal, where "more than 30,000 people cheered" Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez; emphasizing that the "important contributions by local producers and businessmen" made it possible to hold the event for a minimum of cost. The report states that "it was necessary to close down stores and other businesses" because "everyone turned out to participate in the rally." The report also expounds on the "party-like atmosphere that prevailed at the event" and "the enthusiastic participation of local school bands and groups of activists."

BARRICADA also featured on page 7 an article by Tatiana Rothschild giving highlights of "Commander Bayardo Arce's 30 January meeting with more than 500 FSLN activists in Juigalpa," adding that the government's party has a 3.2 to one lead over the National Opposition Union (UNO) in Region Five. The article also says that the participants reviewed "the political and government actions that will be carried out in the

near future," and stated that "the proselytizing actions carried out by the contras in favor of UNO," which include "threatening and assassinating those who sympathize with the FSLN," represents "the main obstacle to their plans."

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA featured on page 2 an editorial entitled: "Where Are the Political Prisoners?" It begins by stating that "the Sandinists know they are losing" so "they seek out Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo in an attempt to improve their deteriorated image and somehow atone for their failures." The editorial says that is why Ortega "has made a new promise to send a bill" requesting "the release of some political prisoners," but "he has yet to send the document to the legislative branch." Nevertheless, the editorial says, "the important issue right now" is to know "where the prisoners are" because Ortega "has been talking about 1,500 peasants in jail, but he has given no explanation about the fate of 3,500 Nicaraguans" who are still in prison, according to the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH). The editorial adds that Ortega "is wrong if he believes the people will forget the relatives that are being treated like slaves in the regime's prisons."

On the same subject of political prisoners, LA PRENSA carries a 600-word article on pages 1 and 8 stressing that the relatives of the political prisoners feel the measure is "insufficient" and they "argue that the names registered on the CPDH lists should be taken into consideration." The article adds that the 22 January Movement of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners met on 30 January with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and "requested that he intensify his efforts to obtain a general amnesty and not just a pardon of prisoners, as President Ortega has announced." The group also asked the cardinal to see if the Supreme Electoral Council will reopen a registration period so the released prisoners may vote on 25 February, LA PRENSA reports. The same article concludes by reporting the cardinal as saying that "it is most important to obtain the release of the prisoners... and later I will continue working for peace and reconciliation of all Nicaraguans."

Finally, LA PRENSA carries a 700-word article by Julio Cesar Armas on pages 1 and 8 reporting that the Sandinist government recently cut the electricity and water for 2 days in the area of San Carlos and Rio San Juan, banned public transportation and the sale of gasoline, blew up a bridge, and "even threatened people" so they would not attend an UNO demonstration. The article adds that despite these actions, "thousands of Nicaraguans rallied for freedom and peace" and listened to key speakers Myriam Arguello and Virgilio Godoy.

* Military 'Loser' in 1990 Budget

90EM0069C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
14 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] The General Budget of Revenues and Outlays of the Republic for 1990 is the best evidence of the policy of

savings and austerity implemented by the state throughout 1989 and projected for the new year of 1990.

In real terms, there is a 44-percent reduction in public spending, a reduction resulting from the trimming of expenses in various categories, particularly purchases of goods and services, which were cut approximately 50 percent during 1989. There was also a reduction in strictly necessary spending associated with the maintenance of infrastructure, machinery, and equipment, as well as cuts affecting the average salary of state workers.

But the sector that contributed most to the reduced spending was precisely that of defense (EPS [Sandinist People's Army] and MINT [Ministry of Interior]), because virtually 49.2 percent of what was budgeted for 1989 is being budgeted for 1990.

The social sector, on the other hand, has an improvement in its share of overall spending, moving from 23.1 to 31.8 percent in 1990. MINSA [Ministry of Health] has an increase from 13.3 to 14.7 percent; MED [Ministry of Education] has a raise from 9.2 to 9.3 percent; and 7.8 percent is appropriated for housing, water and sewerage, social welfare, and other items. This is an example of the funds that may be saved and released from the spending incurred by the war. They will immediately have a positive effect on other areas of social benefit, as well as on the promotion of production, which is the basis for solving the most sensitive socioeconomic problems.

It will be of great interest to Nicaraguans to learn the concrete plans that the Ministry of Construction and Transport has for 1990, which have already been explained to the National Assembly's Commission on Economic, Financial, and Budget Affairs. They reflect the magnitude of the construction projects in ports (Corinto, Puerto Sandino, El Bluff, and San Carlos), in highway and road system maintenance and expansions, on bridges that will ensure communication with the Atlantic and other vital sections in Regions V and VI, and in the improvement of transportation, among other things.

Not all the construction projects are budgeted as state expenditures, because the enterprises attached to the ministries have acquired their own financing capacity.

Similarly, there are various projects that the Ministry of Economy, Industry, and Commerce will sponsor; as well as those which will be the responsibility of INAA [Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute], INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy], and MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform]. All of this enlarges the view of the activities planned for 1990.

If we add to this the opportunities that are opening up based on foreign investments, such as those under way in the tourism branch, and those that may be generated in other branches of the economy, including the participation of private capital willing to act in a patriotic manner within the mixed economy, we have a complete view of

the future. This does not mean succumbing to exaggerated optimism, but rather being clearly aware that the consolidation of peace will be a key element for gradually resolving the major tensions affecting the workers.

Representatives from ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers] and MED [Ministry of Education] also appeared before the Budget Commission to stress once again (as they already have to the Presidency of the Republic) the need to seek responses for the main problem besetting the educational system, namely, an improvement in the salaries of teaching personnel. This is a just demand, as viewed by the president of the Republic at the meetings with organized teachers; one that is already being considered for a gradual solution, which is the only kind possible. In the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Electoral Platform there is a clear statement that teachers' income will be improved, because this is part of a policy aimed at achieving stability among teaching personnel and raising the quality of formal education, the main factor in which is teachers.

Other educational problems relating to materials (incidentally, MED intends to provide teachers with 16 notebooks and 22 pencils per year in 1990) are also essential. However, they can be resolved with international cooperation and the effort of the municipalities themselves, especially starting in 1990, when the Municipal Councils are set up. The latter's full-time management will be a very dynamic factor that will capitalize on the efforts of enterprises, institutions, people's organizations, and the educational community in general, as a great potential backer for the construction of new classrooms, the repair of those requiring it, and pay for more teachers.

As a starting point of what is to be the policy of national reconciliation, we could mention that the Autonomous North Atlantic Region is concerned with the school education of several thousands of children whose families have returned from Honduras in recent months, demanding teachers for the 1990 school term.

Finally, it is fitting to explain that the General Budget of Revenues and Outlays of the Republic for 1990 is only one of the economic policy supports that the revolution has to ensure the operation of an efficient, flexible, and dynamic state. Concurrently, the country has policies to develop promotion, investments, prices, and distinct and fair treatment of each sector, so as to consolidate the national unity of the entire people, devoted to the defense of the national interest, peace, and progress. All this is possible only because there exists a truly popular revolution.

Panama

Arias Points to 'Big Tasks' Ahead for Country

PA0502215890 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio
in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

["Excerpt" of speech by Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and minister of government and justice, on 1 February before the Rotary Club in Panama City—recorded]

[Text] Prior to speaking about the Public Force [FP], I would like to point out the big tasks we have ahead. The FP is not an isolated phenomenon. It is an instrument in the hands of the Panamanian people. We have two big tasks ahead of us. In the first place, we must move our country from a one-person dictatorship based on a nefarious man toward a democracy based on institutions and a *de jure* state. It is a transition from dictatorship to democracy, from personalized power to constitutional institutions, from crude arbitrary actions to a *de jure* state. That is our first big task, and we have barely started working on it, because democracy does not end with the recognition of the man whom the people elected as president of the Republic, or with the appointment of his Cabinet and directors of autonomous entities. Democracy is not over with the appointment of governors and of city mayors, nor is it over with the appointment of a new Supreme Court of Justice that will renovate the judicial branch. Nor will it be over when the legislators elected on 7 May are proclaimed and the National Assembly is installed.

Democracy is much more than all that. Democracy is the free and normal development of institutions. It is the ability to live in an atmosphere of criticism and cooperation, of competition and of solidarity. We Panamanians have barely started working on all these ideas, one month from the events that took place in late December. It is a great task. It is a great opportunity to build a democracy and to live the experience.

In addition, we have a second task ahead: to rebuild our economy. We must not rebuild it so that at the end of our efforts we will have the same economy we had early in 1987; that is, an economy that had exhausted all possibilities of providing employment and well-being to our population. We must rebuild it by creating a new economic model, a new economic model of a market social economy, an economic model of opening to the world that surrounds us. It must be an economic model that will not produce unemployment as its main product, but rather job opportunities; one that will not result in frustrations as its main consequence, but, rather, produces well-being.

These are the two main tasks ahead: to build and enjoy democracy, and to rebuild our economy, creating a new economic model for ourselves in the process.

There is one condition that is indispensable to both of these tasks: the creation of the new FP. We will not have

democracy and we will not be able to live in democracy if we do not manage to create an FP under the civilian authority of the president of the republic for the enforcement of the Constitution and the law and in defense of democracy and human rights.

Democracy requires a new FP that will ensure that the country will never again live through the experience of dishonor, disgrace, and oppression that we lived through for so many long and terrible years.

Comptroller General Views Military Corruption

PA0502225890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Report on speech by Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles in Panama City; date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles has addressed a group of business executives and has put together an analysis of Noriega's dictatorship, during which illegal enrichment and the squandering of public resources were the norm.

[Carles:] "Time has proven that the Panamanian coupists of 1968 had one single thing in mind—their desire to satisfy personal interests. They had no revolutionary interests whatsoever. They were bandits from the very beginning.

"For that reason, they changed all of the country's institutions. They used the country's institutions to quench their thirst for wealth, disorder, and corruption. They turned the Panamanian state into a huge enterprise for producing illegal wealth and sponsoring the squandering of public resources. Little by little, we were being left without a country. The increasing abuse of power led the military to diversify and increase the sources of personal enrichment. Consequently, they weakened, subordinated, demoralized, and eliminated all state institutions that could interfere with their desire to satisfy personal interests. The military decided to take over all possible sources of wealth in Panama or abroad through the use of Panamanian state institutions.

"The Panamanian military turned Panama into a free zone of crime. They were members of a criminal multinational. To impose wide-spread corruption, the military adopted the following measures:

"Reform the Constitution. The government system the Panamanian military imposed allowed the existence of a military dictatorship, and a personalized, wasteful, centralized, inefficient, and absolutist autocratic regime.

"Elimination of the parliament. The will of the people expressed through a parliament that should be in charge of making laws and keeping the people informed was replaced by mechanisms subordinate to the whims of the garrisons. The entire Panamanian judicial system—with very few and honorable exceptions—from the Supreme

Court of Justice on down, was completely and absolutely subordinated to the barracks.

"Justice was administered by the commanding voices of the men in uniform. Orders were sent from the barracks to the courts. The attorney general became the great harbinger of crime. He froze all investigations and criminal files on his shelves. Prosecutors and other officials of the Attorney General's Office throughout the country were docile instruments of political persecution or harborers of crimes and criminals.

"The Planning and Economic Policy Ministry was turned into an appendix of the military headquarters. Through that ministry, the military succeeded in controlling the national budget and in manipulating public expenditure. The budget lost its value as an instrument to administer and control the government's finances. The electronic brain of the barracks' computer terminals handled the national budget and public expenditures from a distance.

"The military went to the extreme of transferring \$5 million balboas from the government's bank account at the National Bank to the barracks every month by pressing a few buttons on their computers. Not even the Comptroller General's Office or the Treasury and Finance Ministry knew about that movement of funds.

"The funds went directly from the National Bank of Panama [BNP] accounts to the military's accounts. The military used the Public Force to persecute, intimidate, silence, incarcerate, exile, and get rid of or kill those who dared oppose the plans of the military leaders, who were also the government's leaders.

"In sum, throughout 21 years of dictatorship, the military turned the country into a farm that they exploited as if they owned it. That is why there are now so many problems and deficiencies that openly violate the law and shock both our own people and foreigners."

During his speech, Carles also referred to the Panamanian funds frozen in the United States. He said that this measure represented approximately \$47.1 million withheld from the BNP and, in principle, \$333 million withheld from the Panamanian Government. According to Carles, the balance was registered in three accounts—the so-called accounts number one, two, and three at the Federal Reserve Bank. Account number three received the funds that U.S. Government agencies owed Panama in taxes. Account number two held, until that date, \$145 million, including funds owed to the Panamanian Government by certain private U.S. companies and other companies which had decided not to pay the amounts they owed into this account—but the amounts were entered on the ledgers anyway.

Comptroller General Carles revealed a situation that many ignored when he said that the previous government's officials had actually managed to get U.S. companies to pay their taxes by forcing their private and public debtors to pay them with checks payable to the

National Treasury. Therefore, a sizeable part of what seemed to be Panamanian Government funds frozen in the United States have, for practical purposes, already been paid by these U.S. companies, even if they appear on the ledgers as accounts payable. The sum of payments made to the previous government is approximately \$50 million, which should be deducted from the total available, Carles said.

[Carles] "Many of them have been accomplices to this practice. They circumvented the sanctions they were making such a fuss about, when, in fact, the government was exploiting the situation and receiving the payments, which were being made all along.

"Account number one was opened to provide operating funds for the Panamanian Embassy in the United States, under Mr. Eric Arturo Delvalle's management, with funds taken from the BNP's accounts abroad. Only several thousand dollars are left in that account. This issue should be investigated by the authorities.

"The previous regime had led the Panamanian people to believe—and many have yet to wake up from that dream—that highways and hospitals were not built; garbage was not being picked up; streets were not being repaired; and the public debt was not being paid because the funds were frozen, because the funds were entrusted to a third party and could not be used at all."

Referring to the funds frozen abroad, Carles said everyone should clearly realize that these should be considered special revenues for the 1990 period and not a part of our normal revenues. If we do not clearly understand this principle, we will make the mistake of believing that the government can maintain a certain structure of expenditures simply because they could be paid today—but it will not be able to pay them in 1991, when we will not have the needed additional resources available.

Furthermore, Comptroller General Carles reviewed a long-term economic program and said that the government's pledge until now has been to try to do what the previous government did not—to pay legitimate debts and attain liquidity for our economy through the private sector, which would enable us to restore the local credit that has been lost. He said it is more important to begin revitalizing the commercial and financial sectors, letting the justice branch decide the legal status of the actions carried out by the previous regime.

Comptroller General Carles tried to dispel false economic expectations and said that the confusion on the level of resources the government actually has available to sponsor its development seems to have increased since U.S. President George Bush revealed what kind of aid would be given toward Panama's economic reconstruction.

[Carles] "Even if the U.S. Senate approves this package as it was presented to the public, the actual flow of resources to the public economy is inferior to what the

people generally believe. Many think that the United States has already given us the \$1 billion—and they call by telephone to ask: Hey, what is the matter? Why do not you pay me? It does not work that way! [laughter]"

Later, Comptroller General Carles expounded on a broad list of options that he entitled: "What To Do, Given the Public Finances' Difficult Situation." He said that the solution is an austere, honest, and responsible government, just like the one the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance intends to have. The government should restore order in the public finances and return to the road to economic growth.

Carles said: The central government believes that putting the house in order means not spending more money than what is received, and making good use of available funds. It also means that decentralized entities must increase their net surplus. Success depends greatly on their ability to recover the investors' trust and motivate all sectors of the population. A democratic government can achieve the people's trust and cooperation with measures that military dictators and demagogues do not dare adopt.

Comptroller General Carles said that the negative tendencies of statism and corruption will be countered in the measure in which freedom of expression is consolidated, and that national affairs in general are publicly discussed in an orderly and serious way. He also said that freedom of expression and freedom of opinion are the best way to counter abuse by government officials, adding that tolerating privileges and abuse is demoralizing.

[Carles] "If we want the Panamanians and foreigners who coexist with us to repatriate, meaning to bring back, the money that they sent abroad, the country's government must recover their trust and beliefs concerning our institutions, and their faith in our civilian authorities and the judicial system. The consolidation of the democratization process will depend on the new government's economic success and will demand great effort and a great sense of sacrifice—which must be equal, meaning the same for everyone. The struggle to rid ourselves of the dictatorship was an effort exerted by everyone. We are now in a different phase; we are engaged in the country's reconstruction and recovery. This is an effort that we must all wage, and we will achieve this goal together."

Letter Explains PRD Members' Resignation

PA0602035490 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA
in Spanish 2 Feb 90 pp A1, A2

[Letter sent to Electoral Tribunal, TEP, President Magistrate Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez; issued in Panama City and dated 31 January]

[Text] Mrs. Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, Electoral Tribunal President, Magistrate President of the TEP:

We, the undersigned—Erasmus Pinilla, Ricardo Bermudez, Luis Villamonte, and Eduardo Marin—all members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], hereby notify you that we have presented the formal resignation of the appointment made by the Electoral Tribunal, which named us to the commission to evaluate and audit the results of the 7th May 1989 legislative elections.

We have made this decision because we believe the irregularities taking place in the commission will not lead to just results—which are contrary to the announced principles that the people's will expressed at the polls. The following are the basic irregularities we contend the commission is incurring:

1. The Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] provided, for the consideration of the commission, a list of elected legislators based on the sole and exclusive designation of the ADOC. The local press has published versions of these lists, which makes it appear as a fait accompli.

2. The ADOC only presented documents and data corresponding to districts in which its candidates won, or in which its candidates appeared to be the winners, as the result of taking into consideration, in some cases, a minimum percentage of tally sheets that favor its candidates. Surprisingly, the remaining tally sheets cannot be found.

3. In other cases, the data provided by the ADOC to assign legislative posts contain contradictions in figures and the criteria applied to determine the half-quotient and residuals.

4. The revision of all and each of the tally sheets from District 2.1 was not permitted. The examination of the tally sheets contains disagreements that could alter the results the ADOC already has.

5. Contrary to previous decisions made by consensus, the ADOC decided to discontinue the examination of tally sheets from District 2.1, thus imposing its conditions as absolute, and controlling the commission. This attitude was obvious as soon as the first important disagreement emerged.

The situation created by all the aforementioned has provoked our withdrawal from the commission at 10:30 on 30 January 1990. Nevertheless, on 31 January, the television broadcast a report in which we appeared as if we were still in the commission, which is an unacceptable manipulation of information.

Concerning the work performed by the commission, and while we were members of the commission, we want to state the following:

- a. Only tally sheets from Districts 1.1, 2.4, and 6.1 were evaluated, because we permitted changing the order of revision to take care of cases with more complete documentation.

- b. No document was revised at all from any other circuit with the single exception of 21 tally sheets out of 107 tally sheets from District 2.1.

Finally, we reiterate that our resignations were expedited because we were not permitted to compare the forms containing the results with the tally sheets presented by the ADOC.

Mrs. Magistrate, please accept our best wishes so that your difficult task will conclude bearing in mind the best interests of the fatherland. Erasmus Pinilla, ID card No. 7-81-78

Ricardo Bermudez, ID card No. 8-92-560

Eduardo Marin, ID card No. 9-69-55

Luis Villamonte.

Editorial Criticizes Designation of Legislators

PA0602014090 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Feb 90 p A4

[Editorial: "The Impurity of a Branch of Government"]

[Text] At any moment, the Electoral Tribunal will be officially announcing the names of the members of the new Legislative Assembly. The road to this objective has been filled with serious doubts and a series of inaccuracies. The veracity of the 7 May 1989 election of legislators has suffered deliberate distortions, which have completely tarnished its purity. The same cannot be said about the election for president and two vice presidents, the results of which were zealously guarded by the Panamanian Episcopal Conference for more than seven months.

What is being done regarding the composition of the National Legislative Assembly completely distorts the spirit of seriousness, respect, and honesty that must prevail in a regime that has promised the Panamanian people it will take a democratic course. According to Article 273 of the Electoral Code, the Electoral Circuit Vote Counting Boards are in charge of the general count of the votes cast in each circuit. In the midst of a democratic government, the Electoral Tribunal, overlooking this regulation, has appointed a commission to review the vote tally sheets which were presented by interested candidates belonging to the political faction that is currently governing the country.

Can the authenticity of those documents, presented by interested parties almost nine months after the elections, be established? How can one assure the people now and in the future that although the signatories of those tally sheets have not been consulted, those signatures are really authentic after such a long period of time? Can the members of the commission confirm in such a short period of time that the tally sheets are authentic when, in fact, they were submitted by the candidates themselves? These are questions that must be answered by an Electoral Tribunal.

This doubt is further supported by the fact that the representatives of the political parties that are now in the

opposition had to withdraw from the commission because, according to them, the government majority has not permitted them to review tally sheets from those circuits where the results were contradictory and suspicious. Even worse, Electoral Tribunal officials, without providing conclusive evidence, have verbally announced the annulment of large numbers of proclamations of legislators that had been made according to the law. Moreover, the same tribunal has appointed a commission to review the thousands of vote tally sheets in just three or four days, and in this irregular way, seeks to proclaim some legislators, even though the number of votes they received cannot be verified.

We respect the victory of a large number of legislators throughout the country. Nevertheless, this does not mean that the method used by the Electoral Tribunal to accredit as authentic the tally sheets submitted by the interested parties eight months after the elections is the most positive and advisable course for a government that has promised to respect the people's will and to establish pure and authentic democracy. We cannot believe that the same electoral defects will be committed by those who criticized them so much in the past and who now remain silent or applaud them because they benefit from them. The way in which the members of the new legislative body will be proclaimed represents an absolute negation of the principles of honesty and spotlessness that should surround those who are holding a position in public administration.

People's Party Questions Commission's Legality

PA0602040490 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Feb 90 pp 16, A2

[Text] The People's Party [PP] issued a communique yesterday stating that the "commission tasked with recounting the tally sheets" is in violation of the Electoral Code, which has not been abolished.

The PP believes the commission—which is made up of the member parties of ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance], the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], and PALA [Labor Party]—has no legal foundation and "only responds to the current sectarian interests of forces in power."

The PP described as fallacious "the argument that only the votes of parties that garnered a minimum of the required votes will be recounted. How can that minimum be determined if the legitimate results of the three elections held on 7 May are not yet available?" the "party of the Panamanian Communists" asked.

The PP claimed that, according to the Electoral Code, the status of the parties is maintained until the results of the elections are officially known, and confirmed after the elections, if those parties garner three percent of the votes cast in any of the three elections for president, legislators, or corregimiento representatives. Therefore,

the Electoral Tribunal can ill afford to disregard the other COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] member parties.

The People's Party Politburo points out that besides violating the Electoral Code, the Electoral Tribunal has turned the much-touted legal state into cheap rhetoric and tainted the very first actions of the Electoral Tribunal and the government regarding the political parties of popular extraction, amid the situation created by the U.S. invasion.

Via its Central Committee Politburo, the PP pointed out that "our party, which in April will mark the 60th anniversary of its founding, has earned its status through six decades of continuous and unyielding struggle amid all kinds of difficulties. Today, as always, we will continue struggling for our legal existence and political rights, because our party is a natural and necessary instrument of the popular and national causes in achieving a participative democracy, respect for human rights, national liberation, socioeconomic development, and peaceful national and international coexistence."

Commentary Discusses Problems With U.S. Aid

PA0602014390 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to reports from Washington, the United States is planning to earmark \$20.8 billion for foreign aid in 1991, giving special emphasis to the strengthening of democracy in the world, the war on drug trafficking and terrorism, and the deregulation of markets and private enterprise. We notice that in the 1991 budget, which will come into effect in June [month as heard] at the beginning of the fiscal year, the breakdown in aid to Latin America and Panama shows Panama will receive \$75,000 in military aid for 1991. This is \$30,000 above the amount granted in 1990, which is \$42,000. [preceding three dollar figures as heard]

It is worthwhile to discuss this matter, because the country is fantasizing about President Bush's proposal to give \$1 billion in aid to the reconstruction of the country, following the incidents that took place with the 20 December invasion and the destruction of most of the national economy in the looting of those days. The \$1 billion in aid to Panama would take up some five to ten percent of the total U.S. foreign aid. A U.S. congressman commented that the Senate and the House of Representatives must approve this aid in an election year in that country. U.S. Republicans, of President Bush's party, will make Panama an issue in the elections because it raised his popularity level, while the Democrats, who control the majority in the Congress, will try to diminish the favorable opinion which the U.S. people have of President Bush because of the invasion.

Therefore, there may be debates in the U.S. Congress on aid. Some senators say the aid to Panama may take away

from aid to other countries, and they are not ready to grant it. Even the commission President Bush sent to Panama, which included Congressmen, told the local and foreign news media in Panama that it would be very hard to determine the amount of the aid, because the sum of \$1 billion that the Panamanian Government is proposing as aid to rebuild the country means 10 percent of the total U.S. aid in the 1990 budget and five percent of the aid earmarked in the 1991 budget. The total U.S. aid includes 15 percent for military aid. We do not know if these percentages will be the same in the aid package planned for Panama. It has been said that half that aid—\$500 million—would go toward reinforcing the weakened balanced of payments.

We want to stress that the U.S. Congress is just now ready to discuss the matter of lifting the U.S. sanctions against Panama, which still apply. The sanctions were imposed through Congress, and it is now up to Congress to enact a law lifting them. Therefore, the funneling of money to Panama, meaning the monies frozen in U.S. banks, has been delayed. All of this certainly buttresses the statements by the president of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives and by one of the leaders of the Chamber of Commerce—that the situation will not be easy, that the task will be difficult, and that the government will have to adopt measures affecting all levels of the economy and the people. The goal of these measures would be to avoid an increase in crime and unemployment and to revitalize the companies that were greatly affected after 20 December.

The large-scale and medium-scale companies have been able to reenter the market, but small-scale companies have been affected. They may find it impossible to resume their work without aid through the normal banking system, such as preferential interest rates. This situation may affect the resumption of activities of many enterprises. Therefore, Second Vice President Guillermo Ford and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo must say how the recovery of frozen monies and the lifting of sanctions are being handled, while the appropriate law is enacted to end the freeze. In addition, the Panamanian president must present the government's plans to solve problems that are tremendously affecting the country, which is what the people demand.

State Enterprise Unions Against Privatization

*PA0602014190 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
2 Feb 90 p 1A*

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] Representatives of 10 [as published] unions of government enterprise workers have declared themselves in permanent session to subsequently "take specific measures in the face of the possible privatization of some government enterprises and to halt the dismissal of workers."

Felipe Argote, secretary general of the Port Authority workers, said in a news conference that the workers are very concerned about statements by high-ranking government leaders concerning the privatization of state enterprises.

According to Argote, "the privatization policy has been detrimental not only to the interests of the workers, but to the entire country."

The representatives who declared themselves in permanent session are those from the Association of Employees of the Port Authority, the Union of Workers of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, the Union of Workers of the Port of Balboa, the Association of Employees of Bayano Cement, the Union of Workers of the National Institute of Telecommunications, the Association of Workers of the Victoria Sugar Mill, the Union of Railroad Workers, the Union of Workers of the National Water and Sanitation Institute, and the Union of Workers of the Tugboat Service.

Argote said that to date, "there have been mass dismissals and wage cuts in sectors that have been privatized by previous governments."

He also said the privatization of state enterprises will lead to a drop in the population's income.

The 10 unions are involved in a process of discussion and will subsequently "take specific measures with regard to the situation."

The workers issued a call to the national government to hold a dialogue concerning this issue.

Hugo Martinez of the Association of Workers of the Victoria Sugar Mill asked President Guillermo Endara "to undertake a serious and objective study prior to privatizing the enterprise, which is the source of livelihood for the community of Santiago and nearby towns."

He asked that measures not be adopted rapidly, because they would bring about a socioeconomic disaster in the country.

Argentina

Duhalde on Corruption, Menem 'Loss of Prestige'

PY0502192090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1318 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 5 Feb (DYN)—Argentine Vice President Eduardo Duhalde today admitted that President Carlos Menem has experienced a "certain loss of prestige," which, he said, "certainly worries me." He expressed his confidence, however, that once the economic plan begins to take hold, the president will recover his somewhat diminished popularity.

Duhalde also harshly criticized corruption in the government. He stated that "impunity has become the rule" and that during its eight months in power the current administration "has been able to do very little to resolve this problem because we need a law" that does not exist "in practice." [passage omitted]

Duhalde said that when he was a deputy in 1988 he submitted a bill to investigate and eradicate corruption, but the bill was not approved. He added that since there are no laws punishing corruption "impunity has become the rule and those who steal from the state are still seen as nice people. This has become a way of life."

Duhalde recalled that the idea to set up a congressional committee to deal with the issue did not work out. He pointed out, however, that this committee "would not have amounted to much and I never did support that idea because its members would have been suspects themselves." He explained: "When I say suspects, I do not mean anyone in particular. What I mean is that it did not seem that a committee of Radicals and Justicialists investigating Radicals and Justicialists would have been very effective."

Poll Shows Menem Popularity at 'Lowest Point'

PY0502185490 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 1 Feb 90 p 17

[Text] Buenos Aires—According to a public opinion poll published in several Buenos Aires newspapers yesterday, President Carlos Menem's popularity has fallen to its lowest point since he won the elections on 14 May 1989. This survey, which sampled the opinions of 400 eligible voters, men and women 19-22 years old from suburban neighborhoods in Buenos Aires, showed that only 34 percent of those surveyed would vote for Menem if elections were held today. Menem won the presidential election with 47 percent of the vote. According to surveys conducted at the time of his installation, he had the support of 60-85 percent of the population.

The survey results published yesterday show that most of the people who are dissatisfied with Menem's initial seven months in government are not from the working class but rather the middle class and university circles. However, 52 percent of those surveyed believe that

Menem will manage to end Argentina's social and economic crisis in the remaining five years and five months of his term. Of those surveyed, 39 percent "more or less approve" of the current administration's performance and 33 percent "do not approve."

Talks With IMF, Economic Targets Viewed

PY0502203790 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1131 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Feb (NA)—According to sources close to the negotiations between the IMF and the Argentine Government, the latter has been unofficially informed the IMF will not "pardon" or grant a waiver [preceding word in English] on the Argentine economy's marked failure to meet the targets agreed upon by former Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli and the agency.

For Argentina, it is crucial to obtain an IMF waiver on its failure to meet the economic targets because this would allow Argentina to receive the second installment this month of a contingent loan of approximately \$230 million.

If Argentina does not obtain an IMF waiver it will have to draft a new letter of intent which should realistically update the targets agreed upon by Rapanelli.

The IMF decision to refuse to grant a "waiver" to Argentina may result from an evaluation by an IMF mission which has been in Argentina for more than two weeks.

Headed by foreign debt negotiator Carlos Carballo, the Argentine representatives have sought to give more flexibility to the targets agreed upon by Rapanelli.

Argentina has noticeably failed to meet these targets, particularly the estimated inflation rate for 1990 which was set at 15 percent, the exchange rate, and the size of the fiscal deficit.

Sources close to the negotiations with the IMF have said that the Argentine Government still hopes the U.S. Government will exercise its influence on the IMF so some targets may be reformulated, thus avoiding cancellation of the standby credit.

According to the letter of intent signed by Rapanelli, the treasury surplus should have been large enough to allow the Central Bank to obtain the necessary foreign currency from export income, without printing money. Argentina has apparently failed to meet this target.

The IMF reportedly expects Argentina to pay \$1.5 billion of overdue interest to private banks without issuing money.

Simultaneously, and without knowing about the leaks concerning IMF pressure, it has been learned that the World Bank has "suggested" the National Mortgage Bank and the National Development Bank be closed.

This is a precondition for the World Bank to begin disbursing a pending credit for restructuring Argentina's financial system.

The World Bank representative for Latin America and the Caribbean has sent a letter to Minister Erman Gonzalez suggesting that steps are taken toward the closure of the banks. President Carlos Menem made it clear that such decisions fall within his jurisdiction and not within the jurisdiction of the Economy Ministry.

The creditor banks are awaiting payment of overdue interest and closely following the program of privatization of state-run companies in those cases where the debt will be capitalized.

Bolivia

Trading of Drugs for Argentine Weapons Suspected

PY0502150990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0333 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] La Paz, 4 Feb (EFE)—It was officially reported here today that Bolivian Government officials believe Bolivian drug traffickers may have established a network to exchange drugs for Argentine weapons. This suspicion was confirmed when an Argentine-made nine-mm sub-machine gun and ammunition for it were found during an operation on 2 February in Eterazama, Chapare region, in central Bolivia. This operation also resulted in the seizure of 533 kg of cocaine base.

Gen. Lucio Anez, commander of Bolivia's special anti-drug force, today said the seizure confirmed intelligence reports that Bolivian drug traffickers are moving toward the south of the country.

Last January Anez told journalists that Bolivian drug traffickers are cutting back on their dealings with the Colombian drug "cartels" and are looking for other options because the latter are being harassed by the Colombian Government.

In addition to the submachine gun seized during the operation on 2 February, officials also found Argentine-made nine-mm ammunition in similar operations in the Chapare region where most drugs are produced.

After Peru, Bolivia is the second major producer of coca leaves from which cocaine is processed. Authorities in La Paz believe that for at least three years now, cocaine-processing laboratories have been operating in the jungle areas of the country.

The seizure of 533 kg of cocaine base—one of the largest ever—took place during an operation conducted by 20 special policemen and several DEA agents.

Antidrug Forces Tasked With Border Control

PY0502200990 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 27 Jan 90 p 6

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Hector Ormachea has told PRESENCIA that the Special Antinarcotics Forces will safeguard Bolivian borders and national sovereignty.

Ormachea said the Bolivian Government will coordinate actions among the various institutions in charge of territorial security. He added that the antidrug forces will play an important role in the control of Bolivian territory.

He said the antidrug forces will coordinate actions with other institutions and specialized organizations to control the Bolivian borders. This issue will be discussed by the National Council against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking (CONALID), an organization which coordinates antidrug actions in all their aspects.

According to Ormachea, the Special Antidrug Forces will be in charge of controlling the Bolivian borders and of safeguarding territorial sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Key Member of Cartel Arrested, Wanted in U.S.

PA0502184790 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1751 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Report by Liliana Vigoya in Bogota]

[Text] The police have arrested suspected drug trafficker Jesus Humberto Vega Escobar, whose extradition has been requested by the U.S. Government. the DIJIN [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations] presented the suspect to the news media this morning.

He is charged with conspiracy and the distribution of six tons of cocaine. According to the authorities, Vega Escobar was in charge of an entire organization that transported and distributed narcotics throughout Central American countries and the United States.

Vega Escobar is listed as an associate of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, and he is also identified as Humberto Vego Posada or David Posada, a.k.a. El Ronco. He is considered a key Medellin cartel member. his arrest was achieved with the cooperation of a citizen, who alerted the DIJIN to the presence of suspicious vehicles and persons in the area.

In addition, seven vehicles were confiscated in various DIJIN operations. Their commercial value is estimated at 80 million pesos. The vehicles and two suspects were turned over to local authorities.

Arrest Links Noriega to Cartel

PA0602023490 Bogota Inrvision Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Summary from poor reception] "Today, when the Colombian police arrested one of the most important men in the Medellin Cartel, the authorities were able to confirm that a link exists between Colombian drug trafficking and Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama's former strongman." With the arrest of Jesus Humberto Vega Escobar today, authorities took into custody one of the most important men of the Medellin Cartel. "He managed the sending of drugs to Mexico and the United States through Panama."

"When he was arrested, he had in his possession a draft of a chart that listed the functions of various drug-trafficking groups," and that included mention of Manuel Antonio Noriega.

It was the responsibility of "Vega Escobar to personally handle contact with Noriega through a person listed in the chart as Frank Carvajal Patermina, who was in contact with Gustavo Cedenio."

Column Views Bush's 'Calculated Risk' in Panama

PA0602011790 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
19 Jan 90 p 8-A

["Clepsidra" column by General Alvaro Valencia Tovar, former Armed Forces commander-in-chief: "About the Invasion"]

[Text] President Bush's decision to invade Panama involved what, in strategy as well as in politics, is known as a calculated risk, in other words, an element that could decisively affect the achievement of the proposed objective.

What was that risk? It could be based on these four main factors: 1) condemnatory reaction by the countries of the American hemisphere, with the consequent censure of the OAS; 2) censure by the UN Security Council—in this case, as in the foregoing factor, this would imply serious injury to the superpower's prestige in most of the countries of the continent and around the world; 3) generalized resistance by the Panamanian people, led by the pro-Noriega "Panama Defense Forces" and the irregular "Dignity Battalion" forces; and 4) Noriega's escape and subsequent passage underground to lead the armed resistance, in which case the role of "hero" might have erased the image of large-scale drug trafficker and tyrannical dictator from people's minds the world over.

To what extent were these factors taken into account by the U.S. Government in making its decision? Placing ourselves in President Bush's position, we conclude they were taken very much into account, with an analysis of their possible effects that could read as follows:

1. The adverse reaction of the Latin American countries, zealous to the extreme in defense of the nonintervention principle, would be a foregone conclusion. However, it

would have been greatly neutralized by the condemnation, equally weighty on a political scale, that all the democratic governments of the continent had previously expressed regarding Noriega, not only for his ties to drug traffic, but also for subjecting his people to a corrupt and arrogant dictatorship maintained by force and the brutal conduct of his praetorian guard. To these, we might add his disregard for and annulment of the election results which were overwhelmingly against him.

2. The hostile attitude of the Security Council could also have been considered inevitable, but the U.S. right to veto would annul, in practice, its immediate effects although it would not prevent a temporary decline in the U.S. Government's international prestige.

3. With negative effects in the two preceding factors, the remaining two acquired dominant importance for the decision. A logical analysis would allow the following developments to be predicted.

National rejection of Noriega and his clique was so intense that it was not likely mass solidarity against the invasion would have outweighed the exasperation and anger accumulated against Noriega by the vast majority of the Panamanian people. It was more likely that the hostility against the "strongman" would be such as to dissuade those majorities from opposing the invasion which was not directed at them but at the source of their problems.

4. Noriega's escape was quite possible. In an attack by land, half the city had to be crossed, and a raid by helicopter had about the same chance of detection. That would give him time to escape, defeating the operation's main objective. This was where the calculated risk offered the greatest uncertainty, especially if the second premise came true.

Noriega as a hero would have given Bush and the occupation forces tremendous headaches. More so if the general—as should have been the case had Noriega really been one—had prepared a contingency plan to be carried out in some remote area of the country where he had the people's backing. Three or four choice battalions of the Panama Defense Forces and a few others consisting of armed civilians could have engaged the adversary in a guerrilla war that would have Vietnamized the situation.

An analysis of the opposing commander's personality, a must in a military appreciation of the situation, certainly did not accord Noriega the character, manhood, or courage to take such a position.

The man was not a hero and could not be one, not even when his hand was forced by his defiant bravado and his virtual declaration of a "state of war" with the United States, made before television cameras, machete in hand. Very few, if any, of the rapacious Caribbean dictators have been heroes. They are better known for escaping when faced with danger, and the human qualities of the Panamanian dictator did not lead one to imagine a conduct any different.

Given the preceding reasoning, the decision, aimed more at internal public opinion than at Panama or the rest of the world, was correct, and it was vindicated by the hundreds of U.S. flags and improvised posters that showed up in the collective delirium following Noriega's melancholic surrender which exchanged his five outlandish, farcical general's stars for a convict's stripes. The fact that Latin America does not like Yankee intervention is another matter....

Governor Comments on Murder of Arboledas Mayor

*PA0602002490 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb 90*

[Interview with North Santander Governor Eduardo Assaf Elcure by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We are saying hello at this hour to North Santander Governor Eduardo Assaf Elcure. Dr. Assaf, good day.

[Assaf] Good morning, RCN [station call sign].

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, what information does the departmental administration have about events dealing with public order, such as the regrettable incident in Arboledas [the murder of Arboledas Mayor Pedro Jesus Hernandez].

[Assaf] The official reports on the regrettable case in Arboledas at noon today, and those carried by RCN and other stations describing the way in which Mayor Pedro Jesus Hernandez was murdered while inaugurating a dining hall for children at Juan Bueno, Arboledas Municipality, lead us to believe that something extremely serious is happening. Hernandez was going to inaugurate on 20-25 February four or five works that are important for the development of the communities and had been demanded by them for some time. This leads us to believe that the situation is really difficult and that other measures will have to be adopted to prevent a continuation of these regrettable actions, which destabilize public order in the department.

I think that after the peace talks with M-19 [19 April Movement] are concluded next week, Dr. Octavio Pardo should in some way promote a truce with the National Liberation Army [ELN] and the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] to see if it is possible to begin a dialogue and keep the bloodshed from continuing in our country, most particularly in our department. Over the course of a month, two mayors, who were characterized as the most aggressive mayors—in the sense that they launched, carried out, and completed projects—have been killed in our department.

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, how many mayors did you say have been killed during that period?

[Assaf] What did you say?

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, do you believe that, for instance, civic or political leaders in the area of North Santander can participate in talks with the EPL and the ELN to make serious proposals to the government about a possible truce, as you suggest?

[Assaf] In view of our current situation, that is, in view of the fact that a month ago the mayor of Abrego was killed and the Arboledas mayor was killed yesterday, I believe the country is pleased that the pacification process with M-19 will end this week. So, why not look for avenues of communication with the [one-second break in reception] and the EPL to establish a truce, at least during this electoral period, so all Colombians, especially those of North Santander, can freely exercise their sovereign right to participate in elections and express their satisfaction with or condemnation of the people who are currently governing the municipalities?

I believe that here in the department, the experience with mayors elected by the people has been satisfactory. Most of them have been responsible to the communities they represent. They have been working and all have a favorable balance. Why not allow citizens to freely and spontaneously exercise the right to vote again. This would continue the democratization and decentralization process needed by the country to progress and find peace. I believe we should take advantage of the wonderful services rendered by Dr. Rafael Pardo, the National Rehabilitation Plan director, to attempt to find new roads toward achieving dialogue with these two sectors, particularly with the ELN. It is not easy to find peace, especially for this department. We must at least make attempts to hold dialogue with this guerrilla group, which has shown it can easily move around and disrupt stability and public order in the department of North Santander.

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, up to now, have ELN or EPL subversives tried to establish this dialogue?

[Assaf] Well, no. It has not been easy. Besides, we believe these are initiatives that should be started by the peace commissioners because they have experience in such conversations, contacts, and dialogues. That is why I mentioned that perhaps through Dr. Rafael Pardo, who has been the national government's delegate, attempts will be made to seek such possibilities. I believe the government has been making efforts to attain peace in the country, and the faster we attain this, the better it will be for the security and stability of Colombia.

[Reporter] Have you already sent an invitation or asked Dr. Rafael Pardo to come to your department?

[Assaf] We have talked to him over the past few days about the public order situation and other situations that require special attention. However, the entire country knows Dr. Pardo has been working virtually full-time to further the peace conversations with M-19. The entire country has been pleased and very happy with these conversations because they have been an important initiation of President Virgilio Barco's peace process.

[Reporter] But Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda does not dislike the idea of holding such conversations?

[Assaf] I am sure he does not dislike the idea because he has been trying to do this for a long time.

[Reporter] When could these conversations take place? Just give us a tentative date. Could it be within days, or this week?

[Assaf] Surely this week we will again have to study the public order situation in our department and surely we will be able to analyze this proposal again, and I believe Dr. Pardo will seriously take it into account.

[Reporter] Some of the country's political leaders—not only in Northern Santander, but in several areas of the country—are very concerned about the constant raids by subversive groups; and their murdered mayors, officials, and political leaders and the kidnapping of National Civil Registry Office personnel. They indicate that with actions of this type it would be very difficult for people to express themselves freely by voting in the next elections.

[Assaf] Yes, all these incidents can surely, in a certain manner, weaken the electoral vote. However, we are more convinced every day that Colombians want to exercise this right without any type of limitations, and make efforts—including heroic actions—to continue this campaign so elections can be held throughout the national territory. Voting is the real expression of democracy and we will all fight for it. We are sure that the government, through the Armed Forces, will do everything possible so the upcoming elections are held without problems. However, it is a huge effort as it must confront a series of apprehensions or fears that have been instilled in some people.

[Reporter] We talked yesterday with National Civil Registrar Dr. Jaime Serrano Rueda. He said that presently there are instructions to hold elections throughout the country, that is, 7,500 voting booths will be installed around the country. However, Dr. Serrano Rueda himself has said that although the Registrar's Office has the obligation of holding elections, under certain conditions and if a governor orders it, elections would be postponed in places where there are public order problems. Do you foresee the possibility that you will postpone elections in certain places?

[Assaf] Despite all the problems we have recently encountered, we can say there is still no place in which we believe elections cannot be held. We will have to adopt some security measures to guarantee voter safety. However, I believe that if public order forces exert themselves and the North Santander people adopt a decision....[changes thought] The people can state their support or rejection of the government and the system precisely with their votes, so this should be a free expression of the Colombian communities and people. I

do not believe it is a good policy to limit the right to vote. Everyone should be able to exercise their rights without intimidation of any kind.

[Reporter] Dr. Assaf Elcure, our fellow worker Marcela Lima is in Cucuta and would like to ask you a question.

[Lima] Thank you, Victor J., and good morning, Mr. Governor. Do you not think that the assassination of the Arboledas mayor—and let us not forget the assassination of the Abrego mayor and the Convencion mayor two years ago—plus the public order incidents that have occurred in the department so far this year, create an atmosphere of tension in the upcoming electoral process? What measures will the government adopt with military and police authorities to guarantee public order in North Santander?

[Assaf] It is obvious that this has created a state of tension and insecurity, but I repeat, the people are prepared to participate in the elections if we can guarantee their safety. I am sure that a good organization and Democracy 90 Plan will allow North Santander Department to hold elections throughout its territory. It is true that these deplorable events have occurred, resulting in the loss of the lives of two of the most courageous mayors—I mean courageous in the sense that they carried out numerous projects—and this certainly causes despair among the people.

Just a few days ago, on 29 January, Arboledas Mayor Pedro de Jesus Hernandez visited my office and invited me to attend the inauguration of five projects in Arboledas Municipality. All these projects were important to the communities because they included electrification, highway, school, and tourism projects. The people of Arboledas felt a special affection for Pedro de Jesus Hernandez. I am sure the people of Arboledas are in mourning today for the unjust murder of Pedro de Jesus Hernandez who dedicated all his time and efforts to carrying out these projects—which he knew were for the community's benefit.

The communities had been demanding these projects for quite some time and he exerted himself to carry them out. I do not believe Arboledas ever had the opportunity to inaugurate four or five such projects within a period of a year and a half. The inauguration ceremony had been set for 22 or 25 February.

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, you are constantly talking with the mayors, either in person or by telephone. Have they stated their uncertainty given the death threats?

[Assaf] Given the public order situation that has prevailed in recent weeks and months, we had issued instructions to the mayors asking them to abstain from going to areas where there is no security—and to adopt all kinds of precautions if they must go because of an emergency. The mayors said they were at peace with their consciences and with their community. They go everywhere knowing that they can do it because they have fulfilled their duty.

This excessive confidence and desire to move freely around was a general feeling. They were convinced they were doing their job and that they did not deserve the situation they had to face. We have insisted, personally and through messages, that they must nevertheless adopt some precautions because all the political, rebel, and subversive groups sometimes have hard-line members who distort or break away from their groups' ideologies to adopt hard-line and drastic positions that lead to these unjustifiable actions.

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, does this include traditional political groups?

[Assaf] That is a much more critical topic and I would not like to discuss it right now.

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, have many of the mayors with whom you have spoken been threatened?

[Assaf] They generally do not reveal that type of threat if they have received them. We have unofficially learned that one or two—perhaps three—more mayors have been threatened, although not openly. We know that some of them are somewhat afraid. We hope that this situation, which has arisen against the North Santander mayors, is never repeated and that we will be able to hold peaceful and free elections.

[Reporter] Excuse me for insisting on the proposal, meaning your proposal for a dialogue with the ELN and the EPL. Would you be willing, if you talk with Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda this week, to coordinate that dialogue, to seek contact, or make an overture as was mentioned in Bogota?

[Assaf] I believe this should be done sooner or later. The national government has achieved—with great political self-sacrifice and will—what is almost a definite agreement with the M-19. I believe the same should be worked out with the other guerrilla groups sooner or later. It had better be sooner and not later to avoid further bloodshed among Colombian brothers.

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, thank you, and I hope you are able to hold peaceful and tranquil elections.

[Assaf] Many thanks to Radio Cadena Nacional.

[Reporter] This was Dr. Eduardo Assaf Elcure, governor of North Santander Department.

Two Patriotic Union Leaders Reported Killed

PA0502185990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1605 GMT
5 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 5 feb (DPA)—Two leaders of the Patriotic Union (UP)—the largest leftist political party in Colombia—were assassinated in different parts of the country, it was reported today by authorities.

It was learned that Jesus Amaya Alsina, UP councilman for the towns of San Calixto and Acari, North Santander

Department, was found dead last night at an isolated location near these communities after disappearing on 2 February.

Meanwhile, another leftist leader, Heriberto Lopez Bula, was riddled with bullets by several unidentified men who attacked him in Apartado, the largest town in the conflict-ridden banana region of Uraba, northwestern Colombia.

The UP, which has demanded guarantees from the government that it will be able to carry out its political campaign for parliamentary and presidential elections this year, has lost approximately 1,000 of its activists—all of whom have been assassinated—since it was founded in 1985.

Reports received in Bogota also indicate that a councilman for the ruling Liberal Party in the town of Mutata, Antioquia Department, was kidnapped by a group of heavily armed men.

Several officers said that Councilman Edgar Martinez Jimenez was at his farm when several unidentified men forcibly took him away.

Officers Report on Bombing of FARC Camps

PA0602013290 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
31 Jan 90 pp 1A, 8A

[Report by Arnoldo Falla]

[Text] Villavicencio—One, two, three. From the fast plane, a bomb falls on two Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) camps, only 30 km from the rebels' general headquarters in La Uribe.

The plane leaves the area quickly, causing the ground to tremble and shaking the tops of the giant trees that cover the zone where there are an estimated 150 rebels.

The campsites, one of them two stories tall, crumble. There are no casualties; the rebels sighted the planes and hid in the rugged terrain. This was the Army's response to a FARC attack on a military convoy on 28 January.

The camps had been operating for more than 15 years and were the gateway to the La Uribe Region. Now, what used to be an area of free transit for the guerrillas is in the hands of 7th Brigade troops after heavy fighting since that day.

That Sunday, 28 January, the guerrillas escaped after killing five soldiers and wounding a sergeant major and nine other soldiers. After that, troops, warplanes, and helicopters arrived at the area near the camps and destroyed them.

For example, the main headquarters, which used to house the chiefs of staff of FARC's eastern bloc, fell. The eastern bloc consists of the 1st, 16th, 7th, 24th, 26th, 40th, and 37th Fronts.

The bombed zones are part of the "corridor" that connects La Uribe, Mesetas, and Jardin. For now, Las Penas and La Guajira trail will no longer be FARC hideouts. The troops combed the area and there was an exchange of fire with the rebels.

A 7th Brigade officer said that the FARC guerrillas were stationed on the La Guajira trail because they have been exploiting an emerald mine there for some time.

General Correa Castaneda, commander of the 7th Brigade, said: "My soldiers died fighting. They did not permit the rebels to take even a single bullet with them."

Nevertheless, La Uribe, the FARC's general headquarters, has not been touched, a colonel said.

Ecuador

Country Could Participate in Brady Plan

PA0302205790 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish
2300 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Ecuador will join the Brady plan if the renegotiation of the foreign debt is satisfactory, said the country's economic authorities who have been in the United States since last week. The World Bank and the IMF have supported the government's economic policy because this conforms with their commitment to give \$1.7 billion to Ecuador over the next years. Monetary Board President Abelardo Pachano; Jorge Gallardo, finance and public credit minister; and Central Bank Manager Jose Morillo are in the United States renegotiating Ecuador's foreign debt which totals \$12 billion. The debt with governments and private organizations totals \$6.4 billion.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR

PA3101002090 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish
17 Jan 90 p A-3

[Text] National Media Secretary Luis Eladio Proano and Soviet Ambassador Vadim Chekmazov signed a cooperation agreement between SENAC [Secretariat for Social Communications] and the Soviet State Committee for Radio and Television. The agreement, which involves no financial obligations for either government, will permit an exchange of movies, documentaries, videos, and radio programs in various fields.

Paraguay

Editorial Views Upcoming Quayle Visit

PY0502182190 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
4 Feb 90 p 12

[Editorial: "Dan Quayle's Visit"]

[Text] U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's visit, which is scheduled for March, will mark the changes occurring in Paraguayan foreign relations and the reestablishment of

ties of friendship and trust between the two nations. This change has not been a diplomatic miracle but the result of the reintegration of our country into the community of Latin American democracies.

Quayle's will be the first visit by a high-ranking U.S. official to our country since Vice President Richard Nixon's visit in the first years of Stroessner's regime. Nixon's visit, which was part of his tour of Latin America, allowed the United States to appraise the extent of the increasing wave of anti-Americanism.

There were several serious incidents during Nixon's visit to the Latin American countries, including an attack on his car by an uncontrolled mob in Venezuela. Similar incidents occurred in other countries because U.S. policies being implemented then seemed identified with the de facto regimes that were prevalent in the region. Nixon's visit to Paraguay, however, was calm and orderly.

A short while after that, Kennedy became U.S. president and another U.S. special mission, headed by Adlai Stevenson, visited Paraguay. Stevenson, who had run for the Democratic presidential nomination, brought a categorical message to President Stroessner calling for the normalization of Paraguayan institutional life. As a result, there was the beginning of a sort of openness which did not bear fruit and ended in enormous frustration.

The Nelson Rockefeller mission also visited Paraguay some time later, when the United States again had a Republican administration. The presence of this outstanding public man in Asuncion caused several serious incidents which were followed by an intense wave of repression. The "Rockefeller Report" was faithfully favorable to the Latin American de facto regimes.

New changes occurred in U.S. politics, and, as a result, the White House finally decided to resolutely support the democratic system. Relations with Latin America began to develop within the framework of a value system based on respect for human rights. The differences between the Republicans and Democrats in this respect became slight and there have been no more visible antagonisms. Quayle will come to Paraguay during this new era, and he will find a republic which, after several decades, is decisively moving toward the consolidation of its democracy. His visit will be the time to establish a basis for constructive relations founded on concrete and permanent cooperation so the newborn democracy can achieve progress and promote the general welfare. With the blood of their soldiers, the Paraguayan people did their part in the creation of these new ties. Now it is time for a friendly country—the United States—to offer a brotherly hand to make sure that the sacrifice of the Paraguayan soldiers and people was not made in vain.

Peru

Garcia Seeks Proposals for Cartagena Drug Talks

*PY0602024290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0000 GMT 6 Feb 90*

[News conference by President Alan Garcia with unidentified journalists in Lima; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Garcia] Messrs. journalists: Through you I wish to extend an invitation to all political forces, especially the candidates who represent the various parties, to offer proposals on the position we should adopt at the Cartagena summit on the struggle against drug trafficking which will take place on 15 February with the presidents of Colombia, Bolivia, and the United States.

As I announced last week, I am going to attend this meeting in view of President George Bush's announcement that all troops will be withdrawn before the end of February and Vice President Dan Quayle's statement that a plebiscite or general election will be held to legitimize the current Panamanian Government.

There is an agreement in our country to see what we can come up with, through a policy of consensus, for the struggle against drug trafficking and the illegal production of coca. This is a very important subject, not only today but for the future of Peru, because the profits generated by the illegal planting of coca are greater than those of our main exportable goods such as copper and silver. The number of hectares currently being used for the illegal production of coca leaves is greater than the area used for our main crops, even as large as the 200,000 hectares of rice plantations that feed the Peruvian people. There are hundreds of thousands of Peruvian people engaged in this illegal activity. That is why the subject we will discuss at Cartagena is very important.

It is a long-term subject as well because, as you know, it is also linked to terrorism and subversion which have become allies of the drug traffickers in this region. That is why I believe we must carry the opinions of Peru's political forces and of the candidates that represent them to this every important meeting, which is quite unlikely to be repeated. That is why I wish to invite the political forces and their respective candidates to put forward their viewpoints; what they think Peru's position should be. I want proposals for military-police solutions and economic solutions; for the replacement of plantations and new crop alternatives for the land currently covered by coca.

I am going to ask the prime minister of the Republic, Guillermo Larco Cox, to personally visit each and every presidential candidate to hear their opinions, alternatives, or ideas that may help us draw up this national, even continental, proposal. This proposal should represent the beginning of an all-out struggle at the economic, social, and police level to definitively wipe out the terribly serious problems of illegal growing, drug trafficking, and massive drug consumption in the industrialized countries.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what is the Peruvian Government's position on these problems?

[Garcia] Before I state this position—as I plan to do probably before leaving, and I will state it in Cartagena—I think it is only democratic to ask the opinions of the candidates: the people who might replace me in my post and continue this battle against drug trafficking which will go on not for another six months but for many years.

[Reporter] Is there a chance that a commission made up of representatives of the various political groups will accompany you on this trip?

[Garcia] Yes. If the presidential candidates and presidents of the various political parties wish to do so in their capacity as (?future) chiefs of state, it would obviously be very important for them to participate in this subject which reaches beyond the political parties and compromises all Peruvians. It would be good to have the participation of representatives from important sectors, such as political or cultural forces, university students, or other types of institutions working on proposals for the replacement of coca plantations or for the military-police struggle against this problem. I think this would represent an important initiative, and hopefully someone will propose it, toward creating a national front in this regard.

It is quite unlikely that we will have a similar opportunity. This one, I wish to recall, was promoted by Peru. Peru called for this meeting with George Bush, who, unfortunately, is President of the great cocaine-consuming country. We are the great coca producers: Colombia processes and markets it, and Bolivia supplies some coca-growing areas. I see this as a historic and important opportunity to propose an overall stance on drug trafficking; to propose an anti-imperialist point of view on the issue. This is why I believe all Peruvians must participate and that we must hear the opinions of the political forces and the candidates [words indistinct].

[Reporter] You have already heard the opinion, for example, of the Agrarian Bank, probably also that of ENCI [National Enterprise for Industrial Marketing], (?CASA), the Cora Project [words indistinct]. The coca growers issued a communique a few days ago stating that they are not against the eradication of coca plantations but complaining about the Agrarian Bank's unsatisfactory service in granting loans. This communique was published by the media a few days ago.

[Garcia] Yes, we heard about this and are analyzing it. But the problem of the 200,000 hectares used for illegal coca growing by far exceeds the capacity of the Agrarian Bank, of the National Coca Leaf Enterprise [Empresa Nacional de la Coca], or of the ENCI to finance fertilizer. This is a subject that must be discussed at the continental level. The Huallaga Valley is an enclave of U.S. consumers. It is a perverse problem with economic repercussions and it is distorting and destroying the possibility of our planting other crops in that area. This is why

we must consider it from a continental viewpoint, discussing it with the country where the problem originates; where it is consumed. The ENCI and the Agrarian Bank problem is important, but it is very small compared to the seriousness of the overall problem.

[Reporter] Mr. President, is it true—as it was said in the United States—that the Peruvian Government is refusing to replace the plantations because it is not economically convenient?

[Garcia] No, according to solid information I have at hand from the State Department and the department in charge of drug trafficking, our government has made the greatest efforts during the past few years to eradicate coca plantations. A few months ago they released a report from May 1989 to the U.S. media that showed Peru, in keeping with its international agreements, had broken all records for eradicating coca in 1988. Peru eradicated more than 5,000 hectares of coca plantations that year, thus stabilizing the overall number of hectares used for coca growing. Nobody, much less the United States, can say that Peru has done nothing.

We have carried out vast operations and have continued our silent task to eradicate these plantations, sometimes with regrettable consequences. The peasant who is faced with bare land after the coca is uprooted either engages in terrorist activities or is condemned to live in misery. This is why we need an overall economic and social development alternative that must be part of a reevaluated Latin American-U.S. relationship.

[Reporter] Mr. President, the situation is now the opposite what the United States is doing for [words indistinct] a meeting put forward by the presidents, because they give \$1 to fight drug trafficking while there are \$100 for consumption.

[Garcia] You are right. It is believed that the total cost of cocaine sold on U.S. streets is \$100 billion. Only \$8 or \$9 million is being offered to fight the illegal production of coca and to replace the crops here in Peru. What the United States—the main consumer—has been offering is not proportional to the magnitude of the problem.

If there were no consumption in the United States, Peru would not produce coca leaves, except for the traditional, ancient uses of Peruvian people. The problem begins there. The responsibility for providing massive resources should be assumed through concerted dialogue, not unilateral measures, because there are hawks in the United States. The hawks are the boldest militarists who believe that troops can be sent to the Hualaga Valley, thus solving this serious problem.

Such an action would represent the violation of a nation's sovereignty, an unwanted unilateral intervention. We want a serious, responsible, concerted, far-reaching socioeconomic policy. This is our objective in Cartagena.

[Reporter] Mr. President, changing the subject, the electoral campaign has entered the final stretch. Opposition parties have constantly mentioned your name and what you have said or have not said. What is your opinion of the campaign?

[Garcia] Those are minor sins by the opposition. They are using elements that are not totally legitimate, but I will not waste my time passing judgment on my dear friend Enrique Chirino Soto or on any of the lawmakers. I understand their desire and their need to be elected. Otherwise, what would they do in the future? If they want to use my name, let them use it, even if it's in a negative way. I have listened to so many things over four and a half years in office that I am actually a little pleased by the fact that they are desperately using my name. At least I am helping them.

[Reporter] Since the elections will be held on 8 April, when will school classes begin?

[Garcia] I saw that the Education Ministry issued a note announcing classes will begin on 1 or 2 April. I would like to propose to the education minister that classes begin after 8 April. It would be meaningless to begin classes and to then discontinue them to open the schools for elections. Classes could therefore begin on 10 April or when the ministry decides. This should be after 8 April. We should concentrate all of our efforts on opening the voting sites. I am announcing that classes will begin after 8 April.

Larco Cox on Drug Summit, Panama Safe-Conducts
PY0602030290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0000 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox has reported that the official delegation that will accompany President Alan Garcia to the Cartagena drug summit has already been formed. Larco Cox indicated Peru will reiterate its position on coca-crop substitution and on the need to grant easy terms for the sale of our jungle products.

[Begin recording] [Larco Cox] The Panamanian Government has granted safe-conducts for seven of the 11 persons in the embassy to leave, including two female captains. We hope they are aware of and will comply with the Caracas Treaty which establishes rules for everything pertaining to asylum at the national level.

[Reporter] What is Peru's position on the problem of drug trafficking as related to the Cartagena summit? Will the country maintain its stance that the United States should purchase the whole coca leaf crop?

[Larco Cox] That is a partial and complementary aspect of the great problem. Let's remember some of the factors within the overall problem: the production of chemicals, the agricultural aspect, the refining of the drug, the selling of the drug, the transit countries, and the very large market.

That is the overall problem. In the past only certain aspects of the overall problem were dealt with; the overall problem was not confronted and this has led to the fact that the struggle against drug trafficking has not been successful.

Of course, we have secondary aspects that are also important, such as money laundering and the participation of the international banking sector in this process.

Within the overall problem, we are mainly affected at the agricultural level. [end recording]

Venezuela

Perez Touts Benefits of National Economic Plan

PA0602042590 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A revolutionary process is taking place in Venezuela's economy that will lead it to commercial reform and to industrial restructuring, said President Carlos Andres Perez. He made these remarks on the "Forefront" ["Primer Plano"] program hosted by Matzer Gardner. The president reiterated that the sacrifices we are now making help us to solve the foreign debt problem. Along these lines, he said that \$12.5 billion to purchase back the foreign debt is like serum for the country's economy, which will move ahead with all the sacrifices we have made.

[Perez] "Within the \$12 billion, there is money to purchase back the foreign debt, reduce the foreign debt, and keep the foreign debt from growing, as well as money for fundamental investments in the country. Therefore, this matter is well coordinated. True, the investment plan has not been announced yet, because the general guidelines of the eighth government plan have just been submitted to the congress. However, there it is, well thought out and organized. It states what we will do and why we adopted the measures we did. Without fresh money, it will be impossible to lift Venezuela's prostrate economy and grow."

He said the employment plan has luckily gotten under way, and that it contains an investment plan totaling 40,000 billion bolivares, which will permit the opening of new paths in our economy. As for drug trafficking, a problem that poses a threat to humanity, the president said that drug traffickers are not interested in the country as a venue for drug selling, but because it serves as a transfer point. That is why the government strongly opposes the practice, as shown by the expectation surrounding the hemispheric meeting, with the participation of the United States, to draft solutions to eradicate this scourge.

[Perez] "We are waiting for this meeting because a number of possible agreements and understandings will stem from it from which we can thoroughly fight drugs all over Latin America. We are not onlookers."

Concerning a report in a Caracas newspaper that President Perez had threatened to resign if a package of measures was not approved, Jesus Ramon Carmona, minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency, said that these are mere conjectures, and that no one can expect that attitude from President Perez, who fully trusts that the economic action program will turn the country's situation around.

[Carmona] "When the president began his meetings with all the country's sectors, he was fully aware that the impact of the program was going to be very harsh, primarily for the great majority, the low-income sectors, and wage earners. That is why he designed a social program from the beginning, directed toward compensating the low-income majority for the harsh impact of this program. However, this is an initial impact. Under these circumstances, it is highly unlikely that all the sectors will rally around the president. You will see that over the short term, as of 1990, the people will cheer President Perez, as a result of the recovery of the Venezuelan economy."

Perez Makes 'Cautious' First-Year Analysis

PA0502225390 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2307 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Caracas, 1 Feb (DPA)—Plagued by the criticism of the opposition, his own government, business organizations, and unions, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has made a cautious analysis of the first year of his term.

Perez, who was sworn in for his second term on 2 February 1989, admitted today that the balance of the first year of his government "is not good from the people's viewpoint." Perez' first year in office was marked by the violent events that occurred barely three weeks after he was installed in the Miraflores Palace.

A violent social outbreak, unprecedented in the country's history, prompted the president to say that "Venezuela is a different country," the slogan used by the new government to explain to the Venezuelan people that, after the oil bonanza, the country faces a new domestic and world reality.

The violent social disturbance that occurred when the first measures of the economic adjustment plan agreed upon with the IMF began to be applied showed the ugly face of Venezuela's oil boom. Numerous social indicators now point to Venezuela as just another Third World country, and in the first year of his term, Perez tried to bear up with this inheritance.

In patient monologues interspersed with critical comments on the world economic system, Perez, 67, has tried in the past 12 months to explain to the Venezuelan people that the golden years of the Saudi-like Venezuela, with its economy subsidized by petrodollars, are over, and that Venezuela's productive structure must be adapted to the world market, in which crude oil now plays a secondary role.

As Perez said today, he has at least achieved several fundamental macroeconomic objectives. Inflation was reduced from 26 percent in March 1989 to 1.6 percent in December of the same year. The country achieved an \$800 million balance of payment surplus, and international reserves increased to \$3 billion.

One year after returning to the government, however, the head of state faces the criticism of the opposition and his own party, Democratic Action, because of his orthodox adjustment plan. The government party, the opposition, small and medium-scale businessmen, and the unions have termed Perez' economic advisers "technocrats," particularly Planning Minister Miguel Rodriguez, the leading negotiator of Venezuela's foreign debt, which has reached \$21 billion. To this must be added the numerous corruption reports filed against leading associates of his predecessor and fellow party member, Jaime Lusinchi, who heads the party faction that opposes the reformists close to Perez.

Although the government party lost the December regional elections, observers agree that Perez came out stronger, because it was mostly figures associated with Lusinchi who were defeated.

The many accusations, however, elicited increasing rejection of the political party system in place in Venezuela for the past 30 years. This rejection resulted in a 70-percent abstention. The voters' mistrust is further fed by an alarming increase in the crime rate and the collapse of numerous public services.

The next acid test for Perez will not be long in coming. The Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, a historic ally of Democratic Action, has announced a series of demonstrations throughout the country to be held by mid-February to protest the increasing joblessness and higher cost of living.

Cultural, Sports Agreement Signed With USSR

PA0102205290 Paris AFP in Spanish 0552 GMT
31 Jan 90

[Text] Caracas, 30 Jan (AFP)—The USSR and Venezuela signed a cultural and sports cooperation agreement today that contemplates the exchange of artists and athletes, as well as participation in international events organized by these countries, it was officially reported in Caracas.

The agreement signed by the Soviet ambassador to Venezuela, Vladimir Goncharenko, and the Cultural director of Venezuela's Foreign Ministry, Eduardo Casanova, guarantees the USSR's participation in the International Theater Festival that will be held in Caracas in March.

The cultural cooperation will place special emphasis on the exchange of materials between libraries and will inaugurate a cooperation system between the National Venezuelan Library and the Vladimir Ilich Lenin Soviet Library.

The Soviet library will provide assistance in document preservation, services automation, and information programs to the community.

A greater distribution of the two countries' films is anticipated, as is the exchange of information on conferences and congresses.

The USSR agreed to send a 15-member boxing team to the "Battle of Carabobo" International Amateur Tournament, to be held in June in Venezuela.

Suriname

Bouterse, Jungle Commando Discuss Tucayanas

FL0202230690 Paramaribo International Service
in English 1730 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The fight with the ranks of the Tucayana was the subject of discussion yesterday during the fourth meeting between Army Commander Desi Bouterse and the leader of the jungle commando Ronny Brunswijk. The meeting took place at Leonsberg in northern Paramaribo. Bouterse and Brunswijk also talked about the planned meeting between the leadership of the jungle commando, the Tucanaya Amazon Indians, and the military authorities; the repatriation of some 6,000 refugees from French Guiana; and the assistance of a delegation from the National Army to Albina and Marowijne District was also discussed. Brunswijk told [word indistinct] yesterday that the meeting between him and Bouterse was positive. He called on the Tucayana Amazons to stop the in-fighting in order to contribute to the peace process.

Armed Men Attack Tucayana Amazon Villages

FL0202230090 Paramaribo International Service
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[Text] According to reports in the daily DE WARE TIJD, the Amazon Indian villages Mata and Bigi Poika in southern Suriname have been attacked by a group of armed men. During this attack, the villages where the Tucayana Amazons have their camps were taken over for some time. The newspaper reports that shortly after the taking over of the villages, the Tucayanas carried out a counterattack and retook possession of the villages. One casualty has been reported according to the daily DE WARE TIJD. The newspaper further states that the spokesman of the Tucayanas, (MATU), has been taken hostage by the assailants. It has also been reported the Tucayanas have the situation in the two villages under control. Mata and Bigi Poika are situated some 100 km from the capital, Paramaribo.

The Tucayanas first made the news in August last year when, following an armed action and hijacking of a ferry, made known their opposition to the Kourou accords. This accord was signed last year between the government and the jungle commando headed by Ronny Brunswijk. The Tucayanas have armed control over southwest Suriname.